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Soviet Union

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Intelligence Sources on Nuclear Weapons Control

AU1811100491 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in German 17 Nov 91 p 2

[F. Weckbach-Mara report: "Soviet Nuclear Missiles Out of Control"]

[Text] New nuclear dangers are threatening Europe and the entire world. This is the conclusion drawn by congruent reports by intelligence services, which are also in the hands of the FRG Government. According to information obtained by BILD AM SONNTAG, satellite pictures and information gathered locally clearly confirm that Mikhail Gorbachev has long since lost control over the nuclear weapons arsenal. There are now four nuclear superpowers in the Soviet Union and one medium-sized nuclear power: Russia, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The danger: In some of them there is imminent unrest and civil war as in Yugoslavia.

300 Nuclear Bombs in Turkmenistan

After talks with the new Soviet defense minister, Bernd Wiltz, defense spokesman of the Christian Democratic Union [CDU]/Christian Social Union Bundestag group, told BILD AM SONNTAG: "The people I spoke to clearly told me that central power and control over the Soviet nuclear potential can only be achieved if the republics on whose territory these weapons are deployed have some say. The matter would become extremely dangerous if these new nuclear powers—Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan—make the nuclear weapons an instrument of their republics' national interests. This could endanger Europe's security and the process of nuclear disarmament."

According to information available to the FRG Government, Russia has 15,000 nuclear weapons, including 1,100 with long-range carrier systems, some of them deployed in concrete silos.

—Ukraine: 6,000 (170 intercontinental missiles);

—Kazakhstan: 1,200 nuclear weapons (100 intercontinental missiles);

—Belorussia: 2,000 nuclear weapons (50 intercontinental missiles).

In addition, according to intelligence service reports, there is Turkmenistan. After all, this republic of unrest has 300 nuclear bombs of the size dropped on Hiroshima in World War II.

Therefore, Hans Stercken (CDU), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, warns in an interview with BILD AM SONNTAG: "These republics are demanding the power of disposal over the nuclear weapons stored on their territory as a political pawn. Thus, they also document their independence. As nuclear powers they want to be directly involved in the disarmament negotiations in the future. This harbors dangers and potential problems in worldwide disarmament. In addition, the republics have already made claims in the conventional area. Some of them want to enhance armament, while at the same time the governments in some places are becoming increasingly unpredictable."

Olaf Feldmann, disarmament spokesman of the Free Democratic Party of Germany and member of the Federal Executive Committee, states even more clearly: "In the Soviet Union there is a difference between theory and practice regarding power over nuclear weapons. There is the serious danger that these weapons could be used to exert pressure or be actually deployed in civil war clashes by the various groups. The result would far exceed that of the Chernobyl disaster. Therefore, we must now support Gorbachev's and Yeltsin's course toward peaceful democracy."

Danger of War and Civil War

The Social Democratic Party of Germany also sees matters in this way. Its defense spokesman, Erwin Horn, told BILD AM SONNTAG: there is an acute danger that individual republics of the former Soviet Union will experience the same developments as in Yugoslavia—with war and civil war. Some of these states that are threatened by collapse have already become nuclear powers; this is the biggest danger of the present, and it might become a matter of existence for the West; because the explosion of nuclear weapons concerns us all. Therefore, it is the command of the hour that all the democratic states support a peaceful and democratic course on the territory of the former Soviet Union, even if that costs money.

Shaposhnikov Interviewed on Arms Reduction

OW1511181291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] We have scrutinized George Bush's suggestions on the reduction of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons and have gone one step beyond the American plan, said Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov in an exclusive interview with DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

In anticipation of the next round of talks on the US and Soviet initiatives, scheduled to take place in Washington on November 25- 27, Mr Shaposhnikov said that Moscow's proposals on ground-based tactical nuclear weapons were identical with those of the US president.

But the USSR has more drastic plans regarding naval-based tactical nuclear weapons. According to President Bush's proposal, these weapons should be removed from ships, part of them should be scrapped and the other part mothballed. We, said Mr Shaposhnikov, suggest that all tactical nuclear weapons be removed—and that they should all be scrapped. We believe that the sea must be nuclear-free, emphasized the Soviet defense minister.

The USSR also wants larger reductions in strategic nuclear arms than the US. Moscow suggested a 50% cut in these, said the minister, while the US only wants 37%. This means, said the minister, that we want each party to keep an upper limit of 5,000 nuclear warheads, not 6,000 as the US suggests.

We also urged the US to sign a statement to the effect that it would not be the first to use nuclear arms, said Mr. Shaposhnikov. The USSR has already committed itself not to make the first nuclear strike.

We suggested an end to nuclear tests. For starters, the USSR has already declared a year-long moratorium on nuclear tests, said the minister.

So far as manpower is concerned, the US said it planned a 500,000 troop cut within the next five years. The Soviet Union said it planned a 700,000 troop reduction, said Mr. Shaposhnikov.

Missiles Commander Notes Need for Control

LD1611150391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The commander of the Soviet troops in charge of strategic missiles, General Yuriy Maksimov, has said that the Soviet nuclear forces must be single and centrally governed. The Soviet Union remains the only possessor of the country's nuclear weapons. Their proliferation is banned by international treaties, said the general, and nobody will be allowed to make several nuclear powers within the Soviet Union. Yuriy Maksimov said that internationally the country has no legal right to do so.

Commentary on Transfer of Physicists, Detonators

LD1511213391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Commentary by M. Osokin; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is discussing a new problem. The West is talking more and more about Soviet nuclear physicists. According to estimates by the American journal NUCLEONIC WEEK, approximately 100,000 specialists are connected to our nuclear programs, both military and civilian, but now many of them may become unemployed. The demand for them is decreasing for a number of reasons—the disarmament process, the cuts in military developments, and the reduction in certain nuclear energy programs after the Chernobyl disaster. And now the French newspaper LIBERATION is already putting forward the fear that up to 10,000 Soviet nuclear physicists and specialists may decide to emigrate, and the newspaper's correspondent reports a brochure in English which has appeared in Moscow with announcements such as: 35-year-old engineer prepared to go abroad. But possibly the people who wish to do this do not need English at all.

According to certain signals from the United States, for example, they have no great desire to accept our nuclear specialists. Military programs are being cut in the United States as well, and in addition to this, it will not be possible to use former Soviet citizens in many projects because of security considerations. And so the fear is voiced in the West that, in this regard, emigrees may be tempted to go to Third World countries. And the actions of some of these countries greatly concerns IAEA representatives.

Iraq's nuclear bases have been destroyed, but for example there is already talk about the plans of neighboring Iran. Its leaders have announced that an Islamic state has the same right to possess nuclear weapons as Israel. However, some people are already talking about the danger of the appearance in the Third World of not just new nuclear specialists. About five years ago a scandal blew up in the United States due to the secret sale of detonators for nuclear devices to the Israelis. And now intentions have been heard for the possible introduction to the market of similiar Soviet instruments. According to a claim by the NEW YORK TIMES, an unnamed Soviet company has already expressed its readiness to sell nuclear detonators to anyone interested for freely convertible currency.

Ministries Remark on Detonator Sales Report

PM1511124491 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 p 2

[V. Nedogonov report under the "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Investigation" rubric: "Where Will Our Detonator Go Off?"]

[Text] On 13 November Central Television's evening news program reported: Certain persons in the USSR are conducting talks with Third World countries on the sale of nuclear detonators [yadernyye vzryvateli]. What kind of a device this is was not stated—it takes the form of a capsule about the size of the palm of your hand. Our correspondent tried to discover who these mysterious vendors are and how much hard currency we will obtain from the deal.

The first call was to Atomenergoeksport:

"This deal is not one of ours," they replied. "We only sell spare parts for Soviet-made reactors. Only people who have some connection with 'military' reactors could have access to detonators."

So who will stay the hand of those who want to spread nuclear weapons?

At the USSR Ministry of the Use of Nature and Environmental Protection, they merely shrugged sorrowfully:

"If anyone is selling detonators, we are powerless to do anything about it. First, we are up to the neck in our own worries; any day now the ministry may be disbanded, so we are more concerned about our own fate at the moment. But the deal, in itself, seems highly likely. We know of similar examples with other types of weapons—nonnuclear. Yes, trading is being carried out, especially by some of the former Union republics."

But the Ministry of the Use of Nature and Environmental Protection declined to give concrete examples.

Deductive reasoning suggested that if anyone should take an interest in the reported sale of detonators, it is the Defense Ministry.

The ministry gave this answer: "We give you our word of honor, these are not our people. We think similar operations were conducted at one time by the former Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations...."

In short, the trail led nowhere.

But then S. Yermakov, director of the Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry, clarified some points:

"I have heard this report," he said. "But the story of the detonators did not just begin yesterday. A few years ago a major scandal erupted in Europe, when a West European firm sold detonators to Arab countries. The trick was that the Arabs operated through a large number of intermediaries."

[Nedogonov] "But if even those hard-headed businessmen were taken in, wouldn't it be easy to twist us around their little finger?"

[Yermakov] "I assure you, if anyone had made such a deal we would be the first to know about it. Because by selling detonators we would be violating the nuclear nonproliferation treaty."

[Nedogonov] "But couldn't it somehow be done unofficially? Bribe a warehouse chief and take a couple of dozen away..."

[Yermakov] "Impossible! The detonators are stored at special stores, under three-tier surveillance."

"Atomic or not atomic, what's the difference?" That was how academician S.T. Belyayev, department chief at the Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute, answered my question. "The detonator is needed to bring together the critical masses in the bomb. They can take various forms, but the principle is the same: to create a small conventional explosion. I personally don't understand who would want these things."

Worldwide Issues

Reaction to Rome NATO Council Session

Session Documents Noted

PM1511110191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Nov 91 Second Edition p 3

[TASS reports under the general headline: "Declaration on Peace and Cooperation"]

[Text] Rome, 8 Nov—"We assembled in Rome in order to open a new chapter in NATO's history"—this is the beginning of the declaration on peace and cooperation adopted at the North Atlantic bloc session taking place here.

The world has changed strikingly, the declaration's authors state, and we are now working on creating a new European security architecture.

Caution requires that we preserve the overall strategic balance and continue to be ready to respond to a possible threat to our security resulting from instability or tension, the document's authors stress. At the same time they point out that the chances of achieving NATO's aim by political means are now greater than ever. Accordingly, the statement says, our security policy will be based on three interdependent elements: dialogue, cooperation, and joint defense. Our military power will be determined by NATO's new tasks, and our forces will be smaller but more flexible.

We have supported to a considerable extent the development of democracy in the Soviet Union and in other central and East European countries, the declaration's authors state. We welcome these states' commitment to the political and economic reforms which were undertaken after they had rejected the totalitarian government of peoples.

NATO intends to extend consultations and cooperation in the political and security spheres. In this connection they are inviting leaders of the foreign policy departments of Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and the Soviet Union to take part in a meeting of NATO foreign ministers which will take place this December in Brussels, and to deliver a joint political statement there which will open a new era of cooperation.

The NATO Council session ended here today with the adoption of a statement on the Soviet Union.

In the statement the NATO heads of state and governments warmly welcome the historic events which are radically changing the Soviet Union and relations between the republics.

The peoples of the Soviet Union, the statement says, have to resolve their future mutual relations themselves by peaceful and democratic means. At the same time, NATO has come out in favor of their operating on the basis of cooperation both between themselves and with the states of the North Atlantic union. In this process, the statement stresses, there is no place for threats, intimidation, coercion, or force.

The statement contains an appeal to all representatives of authority in the Union to refrain from steps which could lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction. We therefore welcome the Soviet leadership's intention, the statement says, to ensure reliable and responsible control over these weapons under a unified command. The said question affects the security interests of both the Atlantic alliance and the international community as a whole.

Paris, 8 Nov—The main reason why France refused to sign the statement on the Soviet Union adopted at the NATO Council session is that, in the French leadership's opinion, giving political or economic advice to a state which is not a member of the North Atlantic alliance does not fall within NATO's terms of reference. This was stated by French President Francois Mitterrand at a news conference, AFP reports.

Officials Favor Consultation Plans

PM1511095591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 91 Union Edition p 5

[V. Mikheyev review: "NATO Takes Step in Right Direction"]

[Text] The results of the NATO Council session in Rome, which sketched out the North Atlantic alliance's new strategy, have led to a raft of commentary and reaction in the Soviet Union and East Europe.

This was prompted by the proposal adopted at the Rome meeting of the NATO heads of state and government that a mechanism be set in motion for regular political consultations on security issues between NATO and the countries of Central and East Europe and the Soviet Union.

USSR President M.S. Gorbachev, receiving Umberto Vattani, foreign policy adviser to the Italian premier, stated: The political component of NATO activity is becoming stronger at the expense of the military component. Europe is thereby ridding itself more and more thoroughly of the legacy of its former division. We continue to proceed, the president noted, on the basis that NATO's experience and potential can and should be used to strengthen the now common security in Europe, but not to the detriment of the formation of new structures within the framework of the Helsinki process.

This is "NATO's long-awaited response to the disbandment of the Warsaw Pact," Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin stated. Without an enemy the NATO bloc feels "uncomfortable," the minister continued, and NATO's desire to draw into its "orbit of cooperation the countries of Central and East Europe, including the USSR and the Baltic States, is a step in the right direction."

"NATO is increasingly turning into a potential and real partner," was how Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev commented on the results of the Rome meeting. The Russian Foreign Ministry has been drawing attention to the fact that NATO reaffirmed the "purely defensive nature" of its alliance and also stated that it would "never use its Armed Forces for purposes other than defense and does not see itself as anyone's enemy. This position coincides with our doctrine of defense sufficiency."

Commenting on the results of the Rome session, J. Onyszkiewicz, Polish deputy minister of national defense, noted that the results "entirely suit Poland." His country is counting on a "promise that the bloc's security umbrella will be opened over Poland as well."

Hungarian Foreign Ministry spokesman Janos Herman assessed the NATO decision as the start of the establishment of ties between the Central and East Europe region and the NATO alliance. Hungary welcomes the creation of the Cooperation Council and intends to participate in its first session slated for this December.

'Certain Weakening' Seen

PM1511150591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[Captain S. Sidorov "Observer's Notes": "What NATO's Rome Forum Will Be Remembered For"]

[Text] The top-level North Atlantic forum in the Italian capital completed its work last week, as expected, without any special sensations. NATO circles had prepared for it in good time, starting with the London and then the Copenhagen sessions of the council. The public knew in advance about the main documents and decisions prepared for adoption at the next session. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA had also written about them repeatedly. Therefore I will venture to sum up only briefly the main results of the session and to draw readers' attention to a number of points which, in my view, will determine to a considerable degree the process of the bloc's further transformation, as well as influencing internal political processes in our country.

The session adopted the bloc's new military strategy, which is no longer geared to a massive invasion from the East but is aimed at countering risks and dangers that cannot be predicted in advance. NATO will henceforth devote most attention to its political role in "resolving crises," relying on a multinational force which will be based on a rapid reaction corps. The most important elements of this strategy will be flexibility, fire power, and mobility—air mobility above all. The new strategy proceeds from the premise that the numerical strength of the NATO countries' armed forces will be cut significantly, ground-based tactical nuclear weapons are being totally eliminated, and air-based nuclear forces are being reduced substantially. More attention will be devoted to deepening cooperation with the former member states of the Warsaw Pact. The Atlantic Cooperation Council has been created as the primary political mechanism for joint discussion of security problems. In addition to the 16 NATO countries, nine states of Central and East Europe, including the present Soviet Union, will participate in it.

The session participants failed to reach a decision on the U.S. and British proposal to expand NATO's international role in the post-confrontation epoch. In particular, the United States proposed using NATO bases and intelligence and rear services systems to assist in the fulfillment of UN resolutions. The fact that the proposal was not adopted was only to be expected: With the disappearance of the "image of the enemy" in the shape of the Soviet Union it is no easy matter to paint a new "image" which would compete with the former one in the consciousness of all the NATO members, while keeping at least within the former framework, let alone expanding it. Nor was the Dutch proposal for analogous NATO assistance for the CSCE process supported. So we are witnessing a certain weakening of the centripetal forces which cemented the bloc for decades.

However, all these irregularities in the background of NATO's formal portrait are nothing compared with the time bomb placed beneath the alliance's future by the Franco-German initiative to create a European army of approximately 100,000 men. It is essentially aimed at shaping the foundations of a European defense which could function independently of U.S. patronage. The Americans and British perceived this as "a dangerous duplication of NATO" and even as an attempt at a "split." But France and Germany disagreed with that formulation of the question. The final wording was "the strengthening of the European pillar of NATO," i.e. the emergence of a balanced military alliance in which the Europeans will act as equal partners along with the United States and the Canadians. However, in whatever diplomatic wording this trend is couched, it cannot fail to be seen that it contains real development potential. Both France and Germany are peeping into the visible time in the future when the question of the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe will arise. In addition, there are also such increasing factors as the desire of France (and also, incidentally, the FRG) to be at the center of the political decisionmaking process in Europe and Germany's desire to say goodbye to its reputation as a giant eunuch at the center of Europe and to become at last a "full-fledged" world power. It is hard to say at present how far this process accords with our state interests, be it Russia or a renewed Union of sovereign republics. In any case, it is important not to lose little by little everything positive that has been accumulated in recent years in relations with each of the powers belonging to NATO.

The dynamics of NATO's attitude toward the processes in our Union are another matter. There is something here on which to express a view. I mean the Rome session's statement on the Soviet Union. The appearance of such a document in one form or another had been forecast if only because, despite all the curtsies toward the former enemy—i.e. you and me—the same old role of a "counterweight" to the tremendous—to use NATO Secretary General M. Woerner's words—"geopolitical mass of the USSR" was being assigned to the North Atlantic bloc. The NATOites felt the need all the more to speak out after the August putsch made amendments to the process of reforming the Soviet Union.

The adoption of this document was the most important political act of the session. All who attentively followed its course will also remember it for this. The West clearly and unequivocally voiced its concern for the first time in connection with the possible proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons as a result of the USSR's disintegration. The alliance urged the leadership of the Union and the republics to refrain from any actions which might promote the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Other very just words were also spoken in that statement—for example, about the need for the sovereign republics to observe the international obligations of the former Union. All correct and to the point.

But something more lies behind these words, something which is at first sight invisible: The NATO bloc has, in point of fact, dissociated itself for the first time from the idea of preserving the Union and virtually made a choice in favor of the republics by appealing to them directly. Whether this will promote the speediest normalization of the situation in our country is a fat question mark. Taking the statement as a signal, certain republics will start doing something which the North Atlantic bloc itself has always opposed—renationalizing military policy, as is already being done, incidentally, in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. To the tremendous economic problems of the "area" which the former USSR is becoming will be added no less complex military-political problems. Only France and Spain came out against the statement, reasonably arguing that NATO is not the forum where policy can be dictated to us. Will NATO's choice not do the republics and itself a disservice? In the final analysis, a situation that has gotten out of control could boomerang on the West itself. I would like to be mistaken in such a forecast.

Thus, although the Rome session has been a stage on the path of NATO's transformation, it would be cheating to say that it confirmed the lack of the bloc's anti-Soviet Union thrust, as had been expected in Moscow.

'Abrupt Turnaround' Viewed

PM1811125591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Nov 91 p 3

[Major General V. Belous "Specialist's Commentary": "Not a Threat But a Risk"]

[Text] The recent NATO Council session in Rome made an abrupt turnaround in the bloc's political strategy. This turnaround was due to the new political realities in

Europe. The North Atlantic alliance's leaders openly acknowledged that the "threat from the East," which from the very beginning of the bloc's formation was its main raison d'etre, no longer exists. The "enemy image" has disintegrated and disappeared.

In these conditions, the natural question is: Why is NATO needed? What is the point of its existence now? After all, this military-political alliance is a child of the cold war, and for four decades the bloc's main area of activity was military confrontation. Now, however, it is recognized that henceforth the main content of that activity will be political problems, which must be resolved primarily by political methods.

Of course, these changes in NATO strategy were promoted to a considerable extent by the change in the USSR's foreign policy course in recent years, the renunciation of confrontation with Western countries in the resolution of the major political problems. The events in the Persian Gulf convincingly demonstrated the Soviet Union's departure from the ideologized external national [vneshnenatsionalnyy] stereotypes of the past and the desire to seek solutions to political problems from positions of common human priorities and observance of the principles of international law and morality.

Undoubtedly, President Bush's initiatives on the reduction of tactical nuclear weapons and President Gorbachev's response had a major impact on the Rome session's decisions. After all, they focus primarily on the very weapons which transformed the European continent into a powder keg. The withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. nuclear weapons from European territory and their elimination are convincing evidence of the two leading nuclear powers' serious intention to end the arms race.

The session adopted a number of documents which reflect the bloc's new approaches to the assessment and methods of the solution of political problems. The first document is entitled "The Alliance's New Strategic Concept." The main idea advanced in it may be defined very briefly—"the threat from the East no longer exists." The authors of this memorandum consider that it was precisely the alliance's policy, pursued over decades, which averted the unleashing of war on the continent and that this policy does not need major adjustment in the foreseeable future. It is stressed in this context that the bloc will continue to ensure its members' freedom and security by relying on both political and military means. The disappearance of the "threat from the East" also caused a quite radical change in the thrust of military strategy. Essentially this means a renunciation of the strategy of "flexible response." It is planned to make considerable reductions in armed forces "to a minimum level of sufficiency." In the next three years the NATO countries' nuclear arms will be reduced by 80 percent.

The bloc's leadership has renounced the concept of "forward-based defense," which envisages the concentration of NATO troops in the immediate vicinity of the Warsaw Pact countries' borders. In the future the bloc's troops will be stationed at garrisons on the territory of various NATO countries. The main reliance is on creating "rapid response forces," similar to the U.S. troops which showed high combat readiness and mobility during the Persian Gulf crisis.

At the same time, the need for the presence of U.S. troops in Europe, which are regarded as an important element of stability, is pointed out. This is designed to simultaneously ensure a U.S. commitment to retaining a nuclear "umbrella" over the territory of the European continent and maintaining its efforts at ensuring security in Europe. The need to retain both conventional and nuclear arms as part of the NATO armed forces is confirmed, which makes it possible to have a wide choice of means and methods of "response" to different conflict situations depending on the type and degree of threat.

However, according to the authors' scheme, the greatest significance in the future is to be attached to political means, which to a considerable extent correspond to the prevailing situation and the economic and military potential of the bloc's members. NATO's top leaders agreed on the need to ensure security on the continent with a lower level of armed forces, which requires a considerable reduction in the number of troops and arms in Europe.

This also determines the need for a fundamentally new approach to the USSR and the East European countries and a switch from confrontation to cooperation with them in maintaining peace on the continent. Leading figures from the North Atlantic bloc countries have effectively recognized the immutable truth that security in Europe can only be common and equal for all or else it will not exist for anyone and that without the Soviet Union it is inconceivable.

The classic formula of the eminent Prussian military theoretician Clausewitz that war is the continuation of politics by other means has undergone deep transformation in present-day conditions. While retaining its significance as a consequence of politics, war ceases to be a rational means of achieving any political aims at all. There will be no winners in a modern major war.

This is being increasingly understood in the NATO leadership, therefore the only sure [bezalternativnyy] way of building the new Europe is to rely on political means and renounce the use of military strength to resolve any problems.

Analysts' special attention was drawn to another main document headed "The Rome Declaration on Peace and Cooperation." This document acknowledges that the security of the bloc's countries should be viewed from positions of the all-European security system and the need for rapprochement and cooperation between NATO and the CSCE process.

This is a very important new feature in the bloc's position. Whereas before NATO, which includes 16 states, was viewed to a certain extent as an alternative to the CSCE, formed from 35 countries, now the declaration acknowledges the need to ensure close collaboration between these political institutions, making use of the most powerful aspects of each. NATO has an established organizational structure, a well-oiled and functioning mechanism, and a unified command and is surrounded with certain, well-developed infrastructures which, unfortunately, cannot be said about the CSCE.

As is well known, before this the United States took a very cautious attitude toward the rivalry developing between NATO and the CSCE. This was due primarily to the fact that the positions of the United States were more secure in NATO than in the CSCE and that it was in no hurry to relinquish its leading positions in Europe which it occupied thanks to the North Atlantic bloc. The 1990 Paris summit breathed new life into the Helsinki process. This, in particular, affected the CSCE's potential in a very topical sphere—the prevention and settlement of conflict situations. The renunciation of the principle of consensus, which rendered the process of decisionmaking in extreme situations, including the solution of internal conflicts, considerably more ponderous, created more favorable opportunities for the implementation of effective measures.

The declaration envisages various initiatives aimed at developing relations with the USSR and the East European countries. Here the document's authors sought to give them a practical thrust. Noteworthy in this respect is the proposal on the creation of a North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which is viewed as an organ of high-level political consultation with those countries.

For this purpose there is to be a special conference in Brussels in December 1991 involving the foreign ministers of 25 states in which the leaders of the foreign policy departments of the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe and the Baltic will take part. These initiatives are essentially a reaction to the desire of certain East European countries to be accepted into NATO. However, increasing the number of this bloc's members is not presently among the plans of the Western countries' top leaders, who currently tend more toward an interim option.

The Western countries' great concern at the situation developing in the Soviet Union is reflected in a special document "On the Evolution of the Situation in the USSR." Of course, the content of this document is not evidence of the Western countries' altruism but merely a reflection of the real threat emanating from the disintegrating Soviet Union. The political instability, interethnic conflicts, the considerable deterioration of the economic situation in our country, which possesses a vast nuclear potential, may sharply destabilize the international situation with the most unpredictable consequences. This is demonstrated by the inconsistent and contradictory comments of some politicians in the former republics about the fate of nuclear weapons.

As is well known, strategic nuclear systems are stationed on the territory of Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan and tactical systems are located in virtually all regions. The most likely claims on the part of certain politicians about the division of the USSR's nuclear potential apply to tactical nuclear weapons. This is due, on the one hand, to the fact that such weapons are stationed on the territory of all the former republics and, on the other, to their miniaturization.

The document clearly sets out the West's position on the Soviet nuclear arsenal: "We urge all authorities to refrain from any steps which would promote the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We welcome the Soviet leadership's intention to exercise responsible and reliable monitoring of these weapons by a single organ of power."

The West's concern at the possibility of the unleashing of accidental nuclear war appeared in a change of the fundamental terms mentioned in the documents: "Risk" has begun to be used in place of "threat." Scientists from various countries point out that if nuclear war breaks out in the next 10-20 years it will not be because of political decisions but as a result of tragic chance. That is why the subtext of the document contains a warning to the republics' political leaders that their independence can be recognized diplomatically only if they accept the security and disarmament commitments in international agreements previously signed by the Soviet Union.

In this regard the observance of treaties on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the reduction of strategic offensive arms, and the reduction of armed forces in Europe and of tactical nuclear arms, acquires special significance.

Some political scientists tend to believe that individual provisions of this document may be regarded as an attempt at interference in the USSR's internal affairs. However, if you approach them from common sense positions, it must be admitted that this clear exposition of the West's attitude toward the Soviet nuclear arsenal can only be welcomed because it goes beyond the framework of the interests of a single country and is international in character.

Of course, it would be premature to give a final assessment of the whole package of documents adopted at the Rome session. There must be the closest study of all their provisions and a thorough scientific appraisal. There is no doubt that such an approach will find in them the kind of tenets that will hardly seem ideal even to the unbiased researcher. However, there is no doubt about the most important matter: NATO's supreme body has tried to find a solution appropriate to the situation existing in Europe and to ensure peace and security on the continent in conditions of the new political realities.

The future will show how this bloc's practical activity matches these encouraging initiatives.

Formal Relations With IBRD Established

OW1511141491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0750 GMT 15 Nov 91

[From the "Soviet Business Review: Point of View"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) established official relations on November 5, when an Agreement on Technical Cooperation was signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and IBRD's President Lewis Preston.

IF's [INTERFAX] economic analyst Valeriy Martyanov has the details.

The signing of an Agreement on Technical Cooperation will enable the IBRD to proceed to the implementation of programmes designed to assist the Soviet Union in moving towards the market system. This purpose will be served by a special Trust Fund for Technical Assistance for which the IBRD has already earmarked $30 million out of its profits.

An IF's correspondent has been told in the USSR's State Bank that even before the agreement was signed, the World Bank had found ways for providing this kind of assistance to the Soviet Union without violating its bylaws. This included research task forces in the oil and gas industry, distribution of agricultural produce, and banking.

On top of that, a team of IBRD experts charged with representing the bank's interests and providing technical assistance to Soviet specialists have been working in Moscow for several months.

The Agreement on Technical Cooperation provides in particular for the team of the World Bank's experts to furnish the Soviet Union with documents on general economic matters, as well as with reports on studies of the Soviet economy undertaken by experts of the IBRD and other international organisations. The agreement also calls for the team of experts in the Soviet Union to be accorded a status similar to that of specialised UN agencies.

The agreement provides for work to be carried out in three stages:

—November 1, 1991, through January 31, 1992;

—February 1, 1992, through June 30, 1992;

—July 1, 1992, through June 30, 1993.

The IBRD will provide technical and other advisory assistance to the Soviet Union under a special plan. If a proposed project is expected to cost less than $100,000, the plan should only set forth the objectives and description of the project, the time period over which it will be implemented, the ways in which the bank will provide the services required of it, and the necessary number of the bank's personnel.

If a project's cost is likely to exceed $lOO,OOO, the special plan will have to include some additional items, such as data on supplementary sources for joint financing of the project.

The fees for the bank's services will be charged at rates calculated in conformity with its usual practice. The expenses incurred by the bank inside the country will be reimbursed by the Soviet Union and individual republics in rubles, which could then be converted into any currency.

A plan for providing technical assistance to the Soviet Union over a period of three months (from November 1, 1991, through January 31, 1992) was also unveiled by the World Bank during the negotiations in Moscow. The plan provides for action in the following areas.

Section 1. Economic Advice

a) Intergovernmental budgetary policies. Various forms of budgetary relationships between the centre and the republics. Powers and responsibilities of the centre and the republics relating to budget revenues and expenditures. Bringing republican taxes into uniformity.

b) Price liberalisation and trade policies. Measures to assure concerted conduct of price liberalisation and trade policies (both external and domestic). Pricing policies in monopoly industries and the utility services sector. Evaluation of costs entailed by partially retaining price controls and/or the throwing up of interrepublican trade barriers.

c) Specific measures for the short term:

—advice on debt service and repayment obligations of and external loans to the Soviet Union;

—assistance in reform and development of the banking sector.

Section 2. Social Safety Net and Basic Services

a) Cushioning of the impact of price adjustments and tax reforms on the public. Drawing up of compensation schemes and/or a step-by-step price liberalisation and reduction/elimination of subsidies.

b) Policies and programmes in the areas of wages and employment.

c) Targeted food aid programme.

d) Housing sector reforms. Review and discussion of draft housing legislation now being prepared. Technical assistance in privatisation of housing stock in the republics.

Section 3. Development of the Private Sector and Attraction of Foreign Investment

a) Appropriate legal and regulatory framework. Review of legislation and regulatory documents, and definition of restrictions on commercial and investment activities in the private sector.

b) Strategy with respect to state-owned enterprises. Options related to management control, auditing, incorporation, commercialisation, denationalisation, and bankruptcy.

c) Trial privatisation.

d) Foreign investment. Review of and recommendations on typical obstacles to foreign investment, as well as the constraints and advantages characteristic of such specific branches as energy (oil exploration and production) and housing construction.

Section 4. Development of the Financial Sector

Review of banking legislation and assistance in its overhaul. Draft mortgage legislation. Basic principles of control over banking operations, and development of the settlement system. Advice on adoption by banks of new accounting and auditing standards.

Section 5. Labour Productivity in Agriculture

a) Evaluation of the impact of price liberalisation on state procurement prices and the cost of agricultural produce. Effect of interregional barriers to trade in foodstuffs on price stability.

b) Reorganisation, including privatisation, of state farms and collective farms. Analysis of the economic implications of the newly-enacted legislation on land ownership, primarily the analysis of its stimulating effect on investments in agriculture and its potential impact on agricultural financial markets.

Section 6. Energy Sector Programme

Legal and contractual assistance in the creation of a legal (taxation) framework for the republics showing greatest promise in the area of oil production.

Section 7. Personnel Training

General reforms: training of yacroeconomics professors—jointly with Moscow State University.

Development of the financial sector:

a) programme for training senior executives for the banking system—jointly with the Academy of the Economy;

b) programme for training specialists in investment policy and analysis for banks—jointly with the State Financial Academy;

c) training of bank controllers - jointly with the Financial Academy.

Development of the private sector: training of enterprise managers—jointly with the International School of Business.

During his visit, Mr. Preston held talks with senior officials of the Interrepublican Economic Committee and the leaders of the sovereign republics.

The IBRD hinted earlier that it would be also prepared to cooperate with the republics on a bilateral basis. If a republic informs the bank that it accepts the terms of the present agreement, the agreement will take effect with respect to the republic on the date when the IBRD dispatches a note confirming the receipt of the republic's message. This does not prevent the Soviet Union's obligations under the present agreement from applying to the republic in question.

Mr. Preston also met with representatives of the country's private business and banking circles.

Popov Gives Gorbachev Message to Economists' Union

LD1611224391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2055 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Mishakin and Aleksandr Stepanenko]

[Text] Sofia, 16 Nov (TASS)—The aim of the meeting of representatives that is taking place in the Bulgarian town of Sandanski is the creation of the International Union of Economists. Leading economists from Bulgaria, other east European countries, the Soviet Union, the United States, and France are participating.

Gavriil Popov, mayor of Moscow, spoke at the founding conference. He related Mikhail Gorbachev's greetings to the participants of the conference. The document expresses the conviction that direct contacts between scientists, specialists, practitioners, representatives of business circles, bankers, and enterpreneurs will make it possible to analyze in practice the processes of integration in European and world economies. Such a practical intercourse strengthens trust between people and countries, helps to achieve a fuller understanding of the unity of the modern world, and helps in establishing peace and prosperity in the world. Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the hope that the activities of the International Union of Economists will help in resolving concrete problems and in the search for new forms and methods of cooperation.

The creation of the union has become an urgent necessity, noted Gavriil Popov in his speech. The processes which are taking place in the countries of eastern Europe, he pointed out, demand new theoretical studies and economic conceptions.

The participants in the conference are discussing the rules of the future union and the creation of a fund for economic research and education.

United States & Canada

Further on Yakovlev Visit to United States

Meets With U.S. Congress

LD1611104791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0354 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington, 15 Nov (TASS)—Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Political Consultative Committee under the USSR president, who is visiting the United States, had meetings at the U.S. Congress on Thursday [14 November]. He had discussions with Congressman Steny Hoyer, co-chairman of the commission on security and cooperation in Europe at the U.S. Congress, and with Senators Sam Nunn and Edward Kennedy.

"We paid great attention at the meeting in the commission on security and cooperation in Europe to a discussion of the state of affairs in the Soviet Union and the possible reaction of the United States to the development of the situation in our country," A. Yakovlev said in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. "The American side showed very serious interest in our affairs. In my view, this is explained first and foremost by the fact that many people are now clearly aware that our two countries are interdependent. They realize that the fate of the whole world, and particularly that of the United States, depends to a large extent on how events develop in the Soviet Union." Academician Yakovlev stressed that if the implementation of changes in the USSR "comes to a halt because of the severe social and economic conditions which have emerged", this could have dangerous consequences. "Then, the world will be doomed to very serious trials," he said. "For this reason, it is no surprise that the Americans are extremely interested in stability in the Soviet Union."

"During these days I have been able to see that there is a desire in the United States to understand what is happening in our country and to help us," the adviser to the USSR president added. "This is explained not only by U.S. foreign policy interests, but also by the Americans' purely human interest and by the emergence of a feeling that they too are participants in the events taking place in the Soviet Union."

A. Yakovlev said that U.S. assistance to the USSR for this coming winter was one of the main subjects of his conversation with S. Nunn. In particular they discussed that authoritative senator's recent proposal to allocate $1 billion from the Pentagon budget for the 1992 financial year to provide food and humanitarian aid for the Soviet Union. S. Nunn had withdrawn his proposal on Wednesday [13 November], because it had not received active support from the White House and had prompted contradictory reactions on Capitol Hill. However, as A. Yakovlev said after his conversation with the senator, S. Nunn "did not renounce that idea and is optimistically inclined". He plans to put his proposal forward again, but this time as a separate bill and not as an amendment to the military budget.

"In addition, we discussed the development of Soviet-American cooperation, both in the immediate future and in the very long term, and disarmament problems," the adviser to the USSR president noted.

A.Yakovlev came to the United States as leader of the Soviet "team" which is to take part in the first Soviet-American meeting of the group on strategic stability. During this meeting, it is intended to hold an unofficial exchange of views on the problems of international security and stability, on the elimination of crises and conflicts in the world arena, and on cooperation between the USSR and the United States in this sphere. Answering a TASS correspondent's question about the nature of the planned consultations with the American side, Academician Yakovlev commented that "we shall discuss issues of the future" during these discussions. However, he stressed, "if democracy does not survive in the Soviet Union, it will be useless to discuss issues of strategic stability".

On Thursday evening, A. Yakovlev left Washington for New York, where he is due to speak at the Council on Foreign Relations and at Columbia University.

News Conference Reported

PM1811115791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 p 4

[TASS report: "How We Are Going To Live in the Future. News Conference Given by A. Yakovlev"]

[Text] Washington, 14 Nov—The purpose of the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. consultations on questions of strategic stability at the U.S. State Department next week is an unofficial discussion of the world situation. This was reported Wednesday [13 November] by Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the USSR president's Political Consultative Council, who is on a visit here.

He noted that questions of strategic stability will be scrutinized by a decision of the two countries' presidents. This is necessary inasmuch as the situation in the world has changed significantly. As has the disposition of forces. There is clearly now a most serious necessity to discuss together how we are going to live in the future. But it is necessary first to study the question in a general context, and the forthcoming consultations will not have the nature of official talks. "I consider," Yakovlev said, "that we need to look again at who is who in the world today, who is trying to achieve what, who is hoping for what, who is striving for what, and who is going to live in this very small world and how they are going to do this." He noted that in the future representatives of the republics will participate in specific talks on strategic questions.

Yakovlev was asked to reply to the question of what does the USSR need most of all now and how can the West help it. "I do not know what the Soviet Union is not in need of," he said, "therefore I find it difficult to answer the question of what it does need."

The USSR president's Political Consultative Council member expressed the opinion that the seven leading Western countries will meet the Soviet Union halfway in resolving questions concerning its foreign debt.

On the subject of the USSR's internal problems, Yakovlev said that the most serious of them are connected with the Ukraine. And the issue is not that it wants to be independent. According to the country's Constitution and all the Union Treaty drafts the republics have the right to do this. It is another question whether they will remain in a single economic area, and whether a common defense alliance will be concluded.

Yakovlev warned against hasty statements about the Soviet Union's having finally fallen apart. I think that after about 70 Union ministries have been abolished a process of stabilization will begin, he noted, after appealing for a calmer reaction to the processes under way in the Soviet Union.

Warns of 'Social Upheavals'

LD1711103691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2059 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 16 Nov (TASS)—The coming winter will not only be a trial for the Soviet people because of the catastrophic food shortage, but also a test of the strength of the democratic processes that are under way in the country. This was stated in a speech to American businessmen here, by Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the political consultative council under the USSR president. Yakovlev, who is here to take part in the Soviet-American talks on strategic stability, said that under current conditions it will not be easy for the peoples of the Soviet Union to cope with their growing economic and social problems without timely and effective help from the Western countries, which today could considerably ease the country's very acute situation regarding food and medicines. "The food shortage," A. Yakovlev said, "may lead to new social upheavals which could threaten all the democratic reforms achieved during the period of perestroyka."

Washington To Host Strategic Security Talks

OW1611055491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 15 Nov 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned that on November 25-27 Washington will host a second round of Soviet-U.S. negotiations on how Mr Bush's and Mr Gorbachev's interlocking initiatives on nuclear disarmament can be followed through. The Soviet delegation will be led by Deputy USSR Foreign Minister Aleksey Obukhov and the U.S. delegation by Deputy Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew.

In addition to the USSR Defense Ministry officials, the delegation is likely to include representatives from Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belorussia, the four Soviet nuclear republics.

Petrovskiy Views Talks

LD1611184391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1549 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Nov (TASS)—The main aim of the Soviet-U.S. consultations starting in the United States at the beginning of next week is the unofficial discussion of issues relating to securing strategic stability in a rapidly changing world, Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, has stated.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent today he pointed out that the consultations are being held at the initiative of the United States, an initiative which met with the approval of the USSR and U.S. presidents. The need has now arisen, he went on, for us to hold an informal exchange of opinions on the emerging situation and take a look at what our countries can do to ensure that "the changes taking place right across the board in international relations" proceed along the lines of the established international structures and have no destabilizing impact. "The intention is to hold an unofficial—I stress, unofficial—exchange of opinions and compare our points of view," the high-ranking Soviet diplomat pointed out.

The first such consultations will be a sort of "test firing," V. Petrovskiy thinks, when the topics are set out, and a further round of discussions on this exceptionally important problem is mapped out, "this is in the interests of our countries, and also in the interests of the United Nations." This is all the more topical at this very moment; there is talk of forming a new world order, which is justly described in the United Nations (at the initiative of the USSR and the United States, incidentally) as a system of peace, security, and cooperation, based on the UN Charter, he stressed in conclusion.

Vladimir Petrovskiy, first deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs, flies to the United States on 19 November as part of a Soviet delegation to the talks on strategic stability matters.

Chernavin Summarizes Talks in U.S., Cuba

LD1811161391 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 18 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Danilin]

[Text] Moscow November 18 TASS— "I am very pleased with the results of my talks with leaders of the

U.S. Defence Department and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba," Commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy Admiral Vladimir Chernavin told TASS after his return to Moscow.

"The visit to the United States," Chernavin said, "was effected in keeping with the programme for exchanging military representatives between the USSR and the United States. A frank and businesslike exchange of views on a wide range of problems took place during the negotiations with American officials."

"We have noted," Chernavin said, "the proximity of the two countries' positions on the further use of navies and their possible reduction, our unanimous conviction that control over the Soviet nuclear forces, including naval nuclear forces, should be undivided and effected from a single centre. Both sides have positively assessed the initiatives of the Soviet and American presidents to reduce tactical nuclear weapons and noted the great importance of the victory scored by democracy in the USSR for the entire world and the future development of the CSCE process."

"I am pleased with the opportunity given me to get an idea about the system used to train personnel in the United States and about the weapons employed by the U.S. Navy. I visited the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Newport Naval College, as well as the 'America' aircraft-carrier, one of the latest destroyers and an up- to-date nuclear-propelled submarines, etc.," Chernavin noted.

"The official visit to Cuba, which ended last Friday [15 November], was paid in reply to the invitation received from Cuba's Minister for the Revolutionary Armed Forces General Raul Castro. The talks focussed on cooperation between the Navies of the two countries," Chernavin said. "We discussed problems linked with the planned withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade from Cuba. In spite of the difficulties, linked with the solution of this problem, our talks were constructive and in keeping with the changes that have occurred throughout the world and within our two countries."

'Fully Satisfied' With Outcome

LD1611183291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1617 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 16 Nov (TASS)—I am fully satisfied with the outcome of the talks with leaders of the U.S. Defense Department and Armed Forces and leaders of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy, who has returned to Moscow after visiting these countries, told TASS correspondent Aleksandr Danilin today. In his opinion success was achieved in constructive discussions of many aspects of the practical implementation of those accords and decisions which have been adopted of late by the USSR, U.S., and Cuban political leaders.

The naval commander in chief's visit to the United States took place as part of an exchange of military representatives between the USSR and the United States. The official visit to the Republic of Cuba was made at the invitation of Raul Castro, Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces minister.

U.S. Army Secretary Meets Marshal Skoromokhov

PM1811101191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[Untitled TASS report under the "Planet's Pulse" rubric]

[Text] Washington, 14 Nov—Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal of Aviation N. Skomorokhov, who is here at the invitation of U.S. veterans, has had a meeting in the Pentagon with U.S. Army Secretary M. Stone. At the meeting, in which General M. Carns, U.S. Air Force first deputy chief of staff, participated, the sides exchanged opinions on a wide range of problems of military-patriotic education in the Soviet Union and the United States, including the fostering of a sense of respect for the armed forces of both countries following the end of the "cold war."

China

Commentary on Talks To Reduce Border Troops

OW1611090991 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1100 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Commentary by Kondratyev from the "Current Events and Commentary" program]

[Text] Listeners and friends: Another round of Soviet-Chinese talks on reducing border troops and building up military confidence is under way in Moscow. Please listen to station commentator's Kondratyev's short commentary.

The Soviet Union and China signed an agreement on this issue 18 months ago. I believe that major gains achieved during the relatively short period since then have helped eliminate military confrontations along the border between the countries. They have also served as important factors in defusing tension in Asia. Past military confrontations along the Soviet-Chinese border and ensuing disputes caused tension throughout the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Detente along the Soviet-Chinese border evidently has had a positive effect on the world's political climate. It has changed people's views of security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Meanwhile, the previous four rounds of talks have strengthened confidence in the two countries. Now neither the Soviet nor Chinese people glance nervously at the border. I can say definitely that confidence between the countries is growing constantly. This has played an important role in prompting Moscow to decide on slashing its Asian-based troops by 200,000 men. It should be noted that military detente along the border between the two countries has produced economic benefits. Everybody knows that military confrontation is a waste of money and manpower. Both countries have stopped massive military spending. Furthermore, troop cuts have led to an increase in regional contacts. For instance, our Central Asian region has established economic links with China's Xinjiang, and our Far East region has expanded cooperation with various provinces in northeast China. In short, military normalization along the Soviet-Chinese border has given rise to pronounced practical benefits.

Not all relevant problems have been resolved, but it is very important that both sides are discussing these issues in a positive and friendly atmosphere.

Northeast Asia

ROK To Transfer $500 Million Loan 18 Nov

OW1811020291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2221 GMT 17 Nov 91

[From the "Business Report" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 18, the Republic of Korea's Export-Import Bank will transfer a 500 mn [million] dollar unconditional loan to USSR Vneshekonombank's accounts.

The Soviet Union and South Korea came to an agreement about this loan in early November during negotiations about how to proceed in implementing the $3 bn [billion] loan, which South Korea offered the Soviet Union. Implementation of the loan was suspended during the USSR's August coup. Informed sources say that that South Korea's acceptance of this decision became possible only after the USSR Vneshekonombank offered South Korea written guarantees.

$500 mn of this $3 bn credit were already received by USSR in the first half of 1991. Another $500 mn were given for a number of joint proiects, none of which is fulfilled until now. Within the framework of credit, South Korea started shipments of consumer goods to USSR in November 1991. Total cost of shipments is $800 mn, $300 mn of which are to be delivered until the end of the year.

Commentator Views DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1711124991 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean
1100 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By station commentator Alekseyev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] China is strongly against the presence of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said this at a news conference in Seoul. He attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] conference. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen stressed: At the same time, the issue of an emergency nuclear inspection of the DPRK should be settled only by negotiations. No force should be allowed.

Station commentator Alekseyev writes:

First, I would like to recall the essence of the issue. Pyongyang signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985. It is clearly stated in the treaty that all non-nuclear countries that have signed the treaty should place their nuclear facilities, it they have them, under international inspections.

As specified in the treaty, such non-nuclear countries are denied the right to attach any conditions to international inspection.

Regrettably, however, Pyongyang has avoided solving this issue. Despite the DPRK's argument, this has in a sense raised concerns in the international community.

Lately, the North Korean leaders have repeatedly stated that the DPRK is not engaged in developing nuclear weapons and that it has neither the intent nor the technological capability to do so.

Many countries regard, with reason, such unilateral statements as insufficient, under the present circumstances.

Meanwhile, realistic preconditions for achieving the plan to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone have been provided recently.

Let me remind you: Until now, Seoul has regarded all of Pyongyang's proposals concerning this as purely propagandistic tricks and instantly rejected them.

Now the situation has changed. On 8 November ROK President No Tae-u declared that his government calls for turning the ROK into a zone completely free of nuclear weapons. Even Washington knows such a stand. The United States has said that it was preparing to withdraw its nuclear weapons from the ROK.

I believe that Pyongyang, too, will take this situation into consideration and respond to such a measure, for only when the South and North guarantee it can the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone become a reality.

What remains to be done is to find a shortcut to the destination. Of course, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was right when he said that no attempt to settle this issue by force should be allowed.

The settlement of the issue needs to be accompanied by an attempt to take into consideration all nuances of the political situation on the Korean peninsula.

The experience acquired by the international community shows that the best way to solve this problem is through the negotiations among all the involved parties.

Commentator Views DPRK-Japan Talks

SK1811021391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1100 GMT 17 Nov 91

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The fifth round of talks for the normalization of bilateral relations between Japan and the DPRK will be held in Tokyo next week. Can the talks be successful? In this connection, Alekseyev writes:

Unless the stances are changed, the upcoming talks will not be as successful as in the past. Japan's stance is that Pyongyang's refusal to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities has hindered the talks' success. The Japanese Government believes that North Korea's refusal to accept such an international inspection violates its international obligation contained in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that Pyongyang signed in 1985. Tokyo also believes that Pyongyang's refusal of such international inspections proves that nuclear development is being pushed ahead in North Korea. Therefore, Japan stresses that Pyongyang should change its stance and accept the nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The Japanese Government has suggested that the normalization of its relations with Pyongyang will be impossible unless such a nuclear inspection by the IAEA is accepted.

What about Pyongyqsng's stance? In light of all the facts, Pyongyang's stance is not [words indistinct]. In a 16 November statement, the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] bitterly denounced Japan's strong insistence that North Korea accept international inspections of the nuclear facilities in the DPRK. The KCNA statement indicated that Japan's insistence is because of U.S. pressure. The statement indicated that the Japanese Government supports the plan to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone and [word indistinct] the work of expanding this denuclearization to other Asian countries.

Pyongyang's announcement of this statement before the talks can promise optimism. An unexpected event may occur in the practice of international relations, because there have been many examples in international talks of one side changing its stance all of a sudden. However, the matter that has aroused apprehension not only from Japan but also from other countries will be resolved eventually without fail in the future, although not in the upcoming talks.

As indicated in the KCNA statement, Pyongyang still [word indistinct] the plan to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone. In the South of the Korean peninsula, it seems that the nuclear weapon issue already has begun to be resolved. An example of this is that U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney and ROK Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku will meet soon in Seoul. According to foreign news reports, they will discuss the procedures for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea. In this connection, in a news conference, ROK Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said that the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea will be completed in the very near fututure. However, the (?timing) of denuclearization should be agreed upon by both sides. Therefore, it is my firm conviction that the issue of North Korea's acceptance of international nuclear inspection will be resolved in the near future. In such a case, relations between Pyongyang and Tokyo and relations with many other countries will be affirmatively developed.

Near East & South Asia

Amir of Kuwait Arrives on Working Visit

Pankin Comments

LD1711151191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Nov (TASS)—Today Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Moscow on a working visit. At the airport the high guest was met by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, ambassadors of Arab states to the USSR, and other officials. The agenda of the Kuwaiti amir's visit includes a conversation with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin, and also Soviet-Kuwaiti talks. "The amir of Kuwait has arrived in our country to express his gratitude for the uncompromising support that the USSR gave to Kuwait during the Iraqi aggression," said Boris Pankin in an interview with TASS. "In the course of the talks," he added, "the sides will discuss prospects for development of Soviet-Kuwaiti relations, and also the framework for interaction between states on topical international and regional problems."

Meets With Gorbachev

LD1811102491 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 18 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—A one-to-one conversation has just begun in the Kremlin between the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Amir of Kuwait al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The amir, who arrived on a working visit in Moscow on Sunday [17 November], is expected to discuss with Gorbachev the state and prospects for the development of Soviet-Kuwaiti relations, as well as a wide range of international and regional problems.

Other officials will attend the talks after the two leaders end their one-to-one conversation.

Gorbachev Praises Ties

LD1811133191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1242 GMT 18 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Nov (TASS)—"Soviet-Kuwaiti relations, which withstood a serious test during the events in the Persian Gulf, have good capital for further development." This was stated at Soviet-Kuwaiti top level talks held in the Kremlin today by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust which are characteristic of our relations with Kuwait, it was reported to a TASS correspondent by Karen Brutents, an official in the USSR president's entourage. He said that in the course of the discussion the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah, spoke in favor of broadening bilateral economic relations. There are possibilities for this, and in the view of K. Brutents everything will now depend on the "promptness" of the Soviet side.

On completion of the talks in the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting with Kuwaiti children whose parents are in Iraqi captivity. They gave the USSR president a message containing a request to provide assistance in freeing the captives.

Speaking with them, Mikhail Gorbachev said that in cooperation with other countries, the Soviet Union and Kuwait will make every effort to return the parents to their children.

Kuwaiti Ambassador on Visit

LD1711101591 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, will arrive tomorrow in Moscow on an official visit. Our correspondent met with Mr. 'Abd al-Moshen al-Du'ayj, the ambassador of Kuwait to the Soviet Union, and asked him to give his opinion on the coming visit. Here is a recording of this talk:

[Begin recording] [Al-Du'ayj] I thank Radio Moscow for giving me the opportunity to talk prior to the historical visit which his highness the amir of Kuwait is to carry out to meet his friend President Gorbachev, as well as President Yeltsin and high-ranking Soviet officials.

This visit comes in fact within his highness the amir of Kuwait's tour of the countries that had a fundamental role in denouncing and rejecting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and that had a continuous and fundamental role in liberating Kuwait. Undoubtedly, your country gave solid proof of its stand which, looked at from an international angle, was a fundamental stand in liberating Kuwait.

The amir will carry out this visit to thank, on behalf of the Kuwaiti people, President Gorbachev and the friendly Soviet people for this stand. We consider that this was a new test... [corrects himself] the test was not new but an additional one to the tests we went through such as the plight of the protection of Kuwait from being subjected to bombardment during the Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet Union's stand regarding this and the current Soviet stand concerning the issue of liberating Kuwait.

The visit is going to be important. There will be a tete-a-tete meeting between the two heads of state. This meeting will consolidate the ties of friendship between them, and they will discuss private issues. This is fundamental because, in my view, personal relations can play a big role in understanding many issues. [passage omitted]

The amir is coming to extend his thanks and to see how Kuwait and the Arab Gulf states can contribute to the reinforcement of Kuwait and the Gulf states' relations with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bilateral Relations Described

LD1511184691 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—The forthcoming working visit of the Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the USSR is designed to impart a new impulse to the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Kuwait, and discuss the framework for interaction between the two countries with regard to international and regional problems, a high-ranking Soviet diplomat told TASS today.

The amir will arrive in the Soviet capital on November 17. He is due to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and hold Soviet-Kuwaiti talks.

The Soviet source noted that bilateral relations between the states are developing on a mutually beneficial basis. Lately, inter-parliamentary contacts have intensified and political consultations between the Soviet and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministries have proved valuable.

Relations are developing constructively in the economic, educational and cultural fields. The Soviet Union has exported to Kuwait machinery, equipment, ferrous rolled stock, timber and other goods. Cooperation projects have been worked out in the field of oil and gas extraction, irrigation and the building of ophthalmological and orthopaedic centres in Kuwait.

Soviet specialists took part in extinguishing the burning oil wells after Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and are ready to contribute to the restoration of the oil industry.

Despite restoration difficulties in Kuwait and the complexity of the domestic situation in the Soviet Union, the Soviet diplomat expressed optimism for further opportunities to develop Soviet-Kuwaiti relations. He said both countries have shown unflagging interest in maintaining and consolidating trade and economic relations.

Mujahidin Talks Result in Joint Statement

Details Reported

LD1511181191 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—The recent negotiations with the Afghan opposition "interim government" delegation, headed by Burhanuddin Rabbani, have resulted in coordination of the text of a joint statement.

The document includes several provisions on interaction between the Soviet Union and mujahidin groups represented in the delegation, said Aleksandr Belonogov, head of the united Soviet delegation at the negotiations and deputy Soviet foreign minister.

In the words of Belonogov, they have decided to create a joint commission to provide for the fulfilment of agreements reached during the negotiations.

The mujahidin delegation has taken upon itself an obligation to free the first group of Soviet prisoners of war before January 1, 1992. However, the number of prisoners to be liberated has not been established.

The commission will include representatives of foreign ministries of several sovereign republics of the former union, Belonogov said. The activities of the commission will be coordinated by the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Depending on the progress in the liberation of Soviet POWs, "the Soviet Union may consider an accelerated termination of the Soviet arms deliveries to the present Afghan leadership". As it is known, the Soviet-U.S. agreements provide for the termination of these deliveries since January 1, 1992.

The Soviet Union has also confirmed its intention to participate in the post-war restoration of Afghanistan.

The document also includes a paragraph on the transition of all power in Afghanistan to an interim government. It is the interim government which may appear as a result of the fulfilment of the UN secretary-general's plan on Afghanistan, Belonogov stressed.

As for the fate of the Soviet-Afghan documents concluded after 1978, it is to be decided by the abovementioned government, according to the statement.

Today the delegation is expected to meet Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, before leaving the Soviet Union.

Further on Joint Statement

LD1511194791 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Yuriy Tyssovsky]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—The four-day negotiations with the delegation from the Afghan opposition have resulted today in the adoption of a joint statement, which confirms, in particular, denouncing of the Soviet decision to send troops to Afghanistan.

The sides have reached concord on the need to pass all power in Afghanistan to an Islamic interim government.

The mujahidin have taken upon themselves an obligation to hold elections in Afghanistan two years after the power is passed to the above-mentioned government. The elections will be conducted with the assistance of the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The fate of treaties and agreements concluded since 1978 and signed by the Kabul regime, will also be decided by the transitional government.

Both sides have recognised the need to achieve progress in the liberation of Soviet POWs. The mujahidin have taken upon themselves an obligation to free the first group of Soviet POWs before January 1, 1992.

The Soviet side has confirmed its intention to stop before January 1, 1992, its deliveries of arms, combat equipment and fuel for warfare means to Kabul. Measures will be taken to radically reduce and, then, completely withdraw Soviet military personnel currently staying in Afghanistan.

The Soviet side has also declared that its obligations on participation in the post-war restoration of Afghanistan remain in force. A joint commission will be set up within a month to fulfill the agreements reached at the Moscow negotiations.

Belogonov on POW Agreement

OW1511201991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moscow, talks came to an end on Friday [15 November] between representatives from the Soviet and Russian Foreign Ministries and a delegation of Afghan opposition forces. These were the first such contacts between Soviet officials and Afghan mujahidin, who are attempting to overthrow the Najibollah regime in Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov gave an interview to "INTERFAX" [IF] at the conclusion of the talks. In his words, the mujahidin delegation has promised to free the first group of Soviet prisoners of war by

January 1, 1992. "At the moment, we do not have a clear idea of how large the group will be," Belonogov admitted. He surmised that depending on the Soviets' satisfaction with POW releases, the Soviets would start to speed up the process of ending weapons and military technology deliveries to the Afghan Government in conjunction with the Soviet-American statement on the gradual complete halt of weapons deliveries to the opposing Afghan sides.

An "IF" correspondent has learned that, during the talks in Moscow, the mujahidin representatives gave the Soviet and Russian diplomats a statement which asserts that mujahidin prisoner of war camps exist on Soviet territory, and that the mujahidin had secretly been deported from Afghanistan.

"INTERFAX" was told by a member of the secretary of the Committee to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on international military affairs, Vladimir Finogenov, that "this possibility cannot be ruled out."

Rabbani on Agreed Arms Halt

OW1611002291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The mujahidin are pleased at the Soviet Union's pledge to end aid to Najibollah ahead of the schedule agreed upon at the Geneva talks on the Afghan dispute, said Mr. Rabbani, leader of Afghanistan's Islamic Society and head of the mujahidin delegation at the Moscow talks, in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX]. It had been decided in Geneva that both the USSR and the USA must stop all arms deliveries to the warring factions by January 1992.

"Stopping military and technological aid to Najibollah's regime will end the 13-year tenure of Moscow's puppets in Afghanistan," emphasized Mr. Rabbani. He called the decision a first step in opening a new chapter in the history of the Afghan problem. "For our part, we'll help with the release of Soviet POW's," said Mr. Rabbani.

The USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov told IF that the sides had agreed to take further joint steps toward the resolution of the POW problem. Besides, the future "interim government in Kabul that will be supported and respected by the Afghan masses" will decide whether the Soviet-Afghan treaties that were concluded during the last 13 years should be honoured by Afghanistan. However, the sides have differing views on the composition of the future independent government within which the Afghan opposition, in contrast to Moscow, does not envisage a place for Mr. Najibollah.

Mortazawi on Joint Statement

LD1811141791 Moscow TASS in English 1304 GMT 18 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran November 18 TASS—The Iranian-based Afghan Islamic Unity Party leader Rahmatollah Mortazawi confirmed the mujahidin will soon release a group of Soviet prisoners of war as an act of good will. He described the results of talks between the mujahidin and Soviet leaders as positive in an interview with Tehran radio on Sunday. The joint statement became a major event in the political history of Afghanistan, he said.

On his return from Moscow the same day Mortazawi expressed his conviction that hostilities in Afghanistan will cease soon and a mujahidin transitional government would be formed by January 1, 1992 which, under the surveillance of UN representatives will start preparations for multi-party general elections.

Mortazawi pointed out Moscow expressed its readiness to deal with the new Afghan Government and recover the Afghan economy. The Soviet leaders have condemned the former Soviet leadership's decision to occupy Afghanistan back in 1979, he said.

A bilateral commission to implement the joint decisions will be organised and will later hold an international conference on Afghanistan with the Soviet Union, Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Mortazawi said.

Ukrainian Delegate Responds

LD1511224591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] [Aleksandr Tikhonov] Before the news and analysis program begins, here is a report on the talks with the mujahidin in Moscow.

They are trying to draw the Union and the republics into the internal Afghan conflict, stated Valeriy Ablazov, member of the Ukrainian delegation at the talks with the Afghan opposition, deputy chairman of the Union of International Servicemen of the Ukraine, in an interview with INTERFAX. According to him, the mujahidin are insisting that Moscow remove Najibollah, the head of the Kabul government, which would be interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Ablazov went on to say that in response to the offer by the Union to participate in humanitarian international aid, Rabbani, head of the delegation of the Afghan opposition, said that this help was of little interest to him since Saudi Arabia and Japan had already expressed readiness to participate in the restoration of Afghanistan.

Rabbani is insisting that the USSR acknowledges its historic guilt before the Afghan people. In Ablazov's words, the representatives of all the republics of the Union are speaking from united positions and there are no contradictions between them. Not one of them is refusing to participate in the efforts to regulate the Afghan problem as soon as possible.

The final text of the joint statement on the results of the Moscow meeting between the Afghan mujahidin and the representatives of the USSR and the RSFSR should be agreed today at the final round of the talks.

Indian Foreign Minister Ends 4-Day Visit

Gorbachev on Talks With Solanki

LD1511210591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1733 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—Mikhail Gorbachev received Indian External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki 15 November. The meeting took place at a crucial moment in relations with India, at a time when economic cooperation and exchanges in other spheres are breaking down in connection with the fundamental changes in the USSR. This is giving rise to concern.

The president reassured the minister and asked him to convey to the president and to the prime minister of India that the loss of dynamics in bilateral exchanges in no way signifies that concepts or policy with respect to this great country have been replaced. We cherish the wealth of mutual understanding and cooperation which has accumulated over the decades, especially the role which the proximity of views and approaches, reflected in the well-known Delhi declaration, has played in the elaboration of ideas for contemporary world politics.

Friendship with India, the president stressed, is our strategic course determined by deep mutual interests, the geopolitical situation, the historical attraction of our peoples for each other, the scale of cultural influences, and the breadth of human sympathies.

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the conviction that the overcoming of the crisis period in our development and the formation of a new and confederative democratic state—the successor of the USSR—will guarantee in the future the stable and mutually advantageous development of cooperation.

Some of the more important specific problems which have arisen recently in economic and other ties were discussed. Agreement was reached on the means for resolving those which can be resolved even in the present complex situation.

In order to adapt ties to the new realities of the domestic and international plan, Mikhail Gorbachev proposed that a permament joint seminar of representatives of science, state, and public organizations should be set up. It can elaborate on a permanent basis urgent problems and give recommendations to politicians of both countries.

The president informed the minister briefly of the Novo-Ogarevo sitting of the State Council which took place yesterday.

Solanki on Talks With Gorbachev

LD1511143491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1325 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—A meeting took place today between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Madhavsinh Solanki, Indian minister of external affairs, who arrived yesterday on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

After the meeting, the head of the Indian foreign policy department told a reporter that the conversation with the Soviet president demonstrated growing mutual understanding and rapprochement between the countries. We also discussed several as yet unresolved issues between India and the USSR, he said. Those issues are trade cooperation, the import of strategic defense materials and raw materials, including oil.

According to Madhavsinh Solanki, the questions of Indian consumer exports to the USSR and a mutual exchange rate for rubles and rupees were broached.

Official Communique Released

LD1811090291 Moscow TASS in English 0729 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Communique on Indian Foreign Minister's Visit to the USSR": TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs has circulated an official communique on the results of a friendly visit of Madhavsinh Solanki, Indian minister of foreign affairs, to the Soviet Union from November 14 to 18.

The communique made available to TASS reads:

The Indian minister was received by President Mikhail Gorbachev on November 15. The ever-lasting value of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation, based on the 1971 Treaty and the 1986 Delhi declaration, was reaffirmed during the conversation. The main aspects of bilateral relations and major issues of world politics were discussed in a principled manner and in the spirit of mutual understanding.

The Indian guest was told about the main aspects of deep changes taking place in the Soviet Union. Solanki expressed India's genuine interest in the success of democratic reforms in the Soviet Union, the preservation of the Union's positions in the world arena and readiness to strengthen the time-tested Indo-Soviet relations.

The minister delivered a personal message to Gorbachev from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of India, reiterating an invitation to the president of the USSR to pay an official visit to India.

On the same day Solanki called on President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. Main attention during this meeting was devoted to the development of direct contacts between Russia and India, primarily in the field of trade and economic cooperation.

Solanki delivered a message to Yeltsin from the prime minister of India, conveying an invitation to the president of Russia to visit India.

During a detailed conversation between Solanki and Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Inter-Republican Economic Committee and prime minister of the community, on November 16, the two sides substantively discussed practical matters concerning trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Solanki and Silayev expressed mutual desire to seek solutions to problems that have cropped up of late and expedite transition of the two countries' relations to a qualitatively new basis. The fundamental importance of establishing direct contacts between sovereign republics and India, with active involvement of the entrepreneurial entities of the two countries, was pointed out.

An arrangement was made for a group of experts and leading officials from a number of India's ministries to visit the Soviet Union soon to carry on talks with representatives of the central authority and sovereign republics with a view to working out solutions to problems.

On November 15-16 Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin held talks with his Indian counterpart Solanki. The consideration of key problems of world politics by them was notable for an in-depth analysis of the new, post-confrontational phase in international relations.

Within this context the two foreign ministers focussed on nuclear disarmament issues with due regard for the recent fundamental positive changes in this respect, including the consolidation of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime.

When discussing the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, including that on the South-Asian subcontinent, the two sides pointed out that, along with changes for the better and the undoing of a number of conflicts, there still are manifestations of confrontation and a high level of armaments there.

The two ministers were unanimous in recognising the need to raise the effectiveness of the United Nations Organisation and its role in shaping a new world order.

The two sides reaffirmed an intention to sign a protocol soon about extending for another 20 years the 1971 Soviet-Indian treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Solanki invited Pankin to pay an official visit to India. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The Indian minister of foreign affairs also had meetings with Yegor Gaydar, Russia's deputy prime minister and minister of economics and finance, and Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's minister of foreign affairs.

Gorbachev Wants 'Swift Solution'

OW1511181791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered an official examination of the problems affecting the Soviet Union's relations with India, with a view to a swift solution, according to India's Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki, speaking in Moscow today. Mr Solanki called his meeting with the Soviet leader "extremely positive and productive", and stressed its importance in demonstrating closer ties between their two countries. The meeting, he said, focused primarily on Soviet-Indian trade links, the ruble- rupee exchange rate, military cooperation and Soviet supplies of fuel to India.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin commented that the problems in Soviet-Indian relations arose from "the peculiarities of our country's current progress towards a market economy". Mr Pankin believes that the complications are by no means insoluble and would be purely temporary. He expressed hope that some issues could be ironed out during Mr Solanki's present visit to Moscow.

Moscow 'Surprised' at Israeli Golan Decision

LD1511234291 Moscow TASS in English 2229 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—Moscow was surprised at the Israeli parliament's decision of November 11 to consider the Syrian Golan Heights, occupied in 1967, an Israeli territory, says a statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's spokesman.

It is quite evident that this step taken against the background of the peace process between the Arabs and Israel, which began in Madrid, does not correspond to its final goal—the establishment of normal, good-neighbourly relations between states of the region.

If the parliament's decision means that the return of the Golan Heights to Syria cannot be a topic for discussion, a question arises—what will be put on the agenda of the upcoming negotiations with Syria, and how this action corresponds to the constantly declared Israeli interest in confidence measures in the Middle East.

Expressing our concern over the above-mentioned decision of the Israeli parliament, we hope that all parties to the peace process will act only on the basis of goodwill, restraint and desire to take into account just interests of each other, as well as abstain from actions, which may create obstacles on the way towards peace in the region, the statement says.

The Soviet Union, as one of the co-chairmen of the peace conference, will continue to do its best to create an atmosphere favorable for the development and deepening of the Arab-Israeli dialogue, the statement noted.

Sub-Saharan Africa

South African Foreign Minister Views Ties

92UF0205A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 9 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Roelof Botha, South African foreign minister, by RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA observer Vladimir Mikhaylov in Moscow on 7 November: "There Is Business in Moscow for Roelof Botha Too"]

[Text] **For the guest from South Africa, "practice" did not make perfect. He visited the Baltics, he visited the land of ancient Kiev and took part in the festivities in the city on the Neva, and on 7 November he arrived in Moscow. The weekly WEEKEND, which is published in Capetown, called this trip "truly sensational for all of South Africa," although our friends, who are representatives of the African National Congress, considered it "somewhat premature."**

Tall, resembling more a fighter or boxer, blue-eyed, and genial, he entered the lobby of the Moscow hotel. Had it not been for the security, he could perfectly well have been taken for a compatriot. The numerous meetings, attempts at "bridge-building," and long flights on an aircraft chartered in London had taken their toll: The minister was fatigued. Nonetheless, he was working, and he kindly answered the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA journalist's questions here. Including the traditional one about his impressions.

[Botha] The main thing is that I have seen a sincere desire to establish good relations between our countries. There is, after all, a great deal which unites us currently. Although there are some obstacles; our countries are changing rapidly. We are moving from a policy of apartheid, and you no longer so fervently profess communist ideas.

I am grateful for the cordial and warm reception and view the mere fact of the invitation as a desire to establish firm ties between South Africa and your country.

[Mikhaylov] Are you referring to the whole of the former USSR or Russia?

[Botha] I would like to hope for excellent relations with both Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, but I believe that the main thing is restoring relations with your people. If the Soviet Union continues to exist or if this is Russia, either way we will respect the choice the people make. I believe that not only we but you also have an interest in cooperation—after all, truly tremendous prospects, in the economy primarily, would open up to the two countries.

[Mikhaylov] Could you describe your plans for the two days you will spend in Moscow?

[Botha] I hope to visit the Russia-South Africa Friendship Society and meet with Minister Pankin, Mr. Shevardnadze, and other officials. We have already discussed and will now discuss in the Soviet capital specific spheres of cooperation so that experts from both countries might start work immediately. I refer to both the economic and political aspects of our relations. I have to say that the progress of the negotiations with Mr. Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg, provided grounds for optimism. I liked the mayor's policy too: He is not headed for a confrontation with Moscow but is defending the interests not only of his city but of Russia as a whole.

[Mikhaylov] In your opinion, when will we see the South African flag above a building in Moscow and the Soviet flag in Pretoria?

[Botha] I confess: We brought our flag with us. Our government is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with your country at any time. I see no obstacles to this. We have few differences: both of us support private ownership; we support market relations, and you have embarked on this path; we revere democracy, and you also are implementing democratic principles. Both countries are proceeding by way of perestroyka, and this word has today become very popular throughout the world. I repeat: We have removed the blinders: you, the communist ones; we, those of apartheid. It is for this reason that I am trying to prompt my colleagues and friends to abandon a prejudiced attitude toward the Soviet Union and cooperate with it to the utmost for the common good.

[Mikhaylov] We know that there are quite a number of Russian people in South Africa: The first were those who took part in the Anglo-Boer War at the turn of the century, and the Russian colony has multiplied subsequently. What kind of relations do they have with other South Africans?

[Botha] You can believe me that there is no discrimination with us in respect of Russians—they are full citizens of the country.

[Mikhaylov] What would you care to say to readers of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA?

[Botha] Let us recognize the new realities and take advantage of them. Splendid prospects are opening up before us, and we should not let our opportunity slip. Our peoples are duty bound to understand that, despite certain political disagreements, we must offer one another not our views but our goods.

East Europe

'Unpredictable' Domestic Situation Affects Aid

PM1811101391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Nov 91 Union Edition p 4

[Correspondent B. Moskvichev report: "Aid Will Have To Continue"]

[Text] Brussels—A whole range of criticisms of the United States and Japan were expressed at the last session of the 12 EC foreign ministers: The belief in Brussels is that they are in no hurry to honor promises of aid to East European countries.

The European Community ministers later carried their critical mood over to a conference of representatives from the 24 most developed OECD states, which also took place here in Brussels. Particular indignation was prompted by the U.S. and Japanese position—they had promised concrete aid to Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but to this day no specific steps toward realizing this aid have been taken. Neither do they intend to expedite aid granted to Romania and Bulgaria.

As for aid to the USSR, the Belgian business circles' newspaper L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE noted that this is becoming increasingly problematic. This is in connection primarily with the fact that developments in the domestic political situation are growing ever more unpredictable.

In recent months agreement was reached on allocating aid to the value of 2 billion ECU's [European Currency Unit]. The first installment—250 million ECU's—has already been sent to the recipient. It has proved far more difficult to implement the second stage in this aid, which concerns the use of 500 million ECU's allocated for securing credits.

During a discussion on this question, the ministers decided to take a number of precautions. It is primarily a matter of obtaining more reliable guarantees from the center and the republics.

The opportunity for using the remaining 1.250 billion ECU's also appears increasingly problematic. There is no unanimous viewpoint within the European Community on possible areas for using this aid or on the actual mechanism for realizing aid to the Soviet side.

While political and technical problems remain unsolved, the Soviet Union will have to wait to receive the first of the 1.250 million ECU's earmarked by the EC.

Poland's 'High Charge' for Troop Transit Noted

PM1811101991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[Response by USSR Defense Ministry Central Directorate of Military Communications to reader's letter under the "From Competent Sources" rubric: "By Military Train Across Poland"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "The Soviet Union has pledged to withdraw its troops from German territory before the end of 1994—a very short period. Poland is taking advantage of this to set a high charge for the transit of Soviet military trains across its territory. How much is it asking for the transit of one train? A. Kuchmiy, Kharkov."

A standard international form of settlement in Swiss francs exists in the world today for transit operations. The Soviet Union is paying 0.71 Swiss francs per axle-kilometer for transit operations across Polish territory. Military trains proceed from Frankfurt an der Oder to Brest via Poznan and Warsaw. The total length of the journey within Poland's borders is 681 km.

If you convert the payment into Deutschmarks [DM], the transit cost for a single 35-car train will total DM66,800.

Despite the fact that this appears quite an impressive sum, it is still below the international transit tariff. Talks are now being conducted with the Polish side on lowering it. Poland is prepared to lower the tariff but only after the USSR has cleared its debt in respect of transit operations across Poland's territory.

This response was obtained from the USSR Defense Ministry Central Directorate of Military Communications.

West Europe

Shaposhnikov Concludes Visit to Germany

Rates Western Group of Forces

PM1711150591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, by Colonel V. Markushin; place and date not given: "USSR Defense Minister Rates Highly the Combat Readiness of Western Group of Forces"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, has ended a brief visit to the Western Group of Forces [WGF]. Prior to his departure for Moscow he gave an interview to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent.

[Shaposhnikov] This is the first time that I have visited the WGF as minister of defense. I would like to say that the WGF is the target of close attention on the part of the

Ministry of Defense and the leadership of the country as a result of its uniqueness: After all, Germany is the only NATO country where our troops are deployed, and naturally, it was of considerable interest for me to see what sort of state the group finds itself in, and what relations are like between the German people, the Bundeswehr, and our servicemen. I must say that I am less worried about this problem now because I have been able to see for myself that the prevailing relations are not bad at all.

It also was interesting to see how the servicemen of the group of forces and their families are living. I visited three garrisons and watched a tactical battalion exercise. Having consulted my aides, I decided to rate them as "excellent." The training of motor riflemen, tankmen, and artillery men is very high indeed. If we work like this, we will fulfill the combat training tasks successfully.

[Markushin] What would you like to wish to the personnel of the group of forces?

[Shaposhnikov] I wish them this: During these difficult times it is necessary for us to rally, mobilize our will, and hold out. The group of forces is capable of fulfilling the tasks assigned to it. I wish the officers and men to bear with honor the title of Soviet citizens and servicemen of the Soviet Armed Forces on the territory of a foreign state.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on Visit

PM1511164191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent Colonel V. Markushin report: "USSR Defense Minister's Stay in Western Group of Forces"]

[Text] The official visit to the FRG by Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, ended with a visit to Mahlwinkel Garrison in the Western Group of Forces. The Soviet minister and FRG Defense Minister G. Stoltenberg, who was accompanying him, inspected aviation combat hardware and were present for demonstration flights. The ministers had a meeting with servicemen and family members in the garrison's Officers' House.

After opening the meeting, Colonel General M. Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, gave the floor to the FRG defense minister. Stoltenberg described the visit by his Soviet colleague as a portentous event in German-Soviet relations and emphasized that the German Government and Defense Ministry will endeavor to do everything possible to ensure that the concluding stage of the Soviet troops' stay on German soil leaves a good impression on the memory of the Western Group of Forces servicemen. "We want you to return home with warm memories of Germany," he said.

The FRG defense minister also touched on some problems. For example, he spoke about the increase in the number of unlawful actions against Soviet people. Stoltenberg blamed this on the exacerbation of social difficulties in the East German laender, which are affecting the corresponding behavior of individual German citizens. "And yet there is more that is good," Stoltenberg said. "And we must develop what is good."

Speaking next, Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov described his meetings with Chancellor H. Kohl, with deputies of the FRG parliament, with pilots of the 3d Air Support Division, and with students of a Bundeswehr academy.

Dwelling on the question of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Germany, Shaposhnikov emphasized that the relocation schedule will be strictly observed and will have been fulfilled in full by the end of 1994. "There might be some small deviations along the way, but on the whole the plan will be fulfilled," the minister said. In conclusion the Soviet defense minister rated highly the significance of all-around ties with Germany, saying that "we have many interests in common."

After the meeting the USSR and FRG defense ministers held a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Visit Marked by 'Amicability'

PM1511162791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Nov 91 p 3

[IAN correspondent Yu. Chervakov report: "Amicability: USSR Defense Minister Visits FRG"]

[Text] Berlin—The visit to the Western Group of Forces' garrison at Mahlwinkel near Magdeburg by the Soviet and FRG defense ministers 13 November essentially marked the end of Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov's visit to the country. In the ministers' view, the character of the meetings was distinguished by an exceptionally high degree of amicability and frankness.

By all accounts, the ministers got on well with one another. Gerhard Stoltenberg was again able to receive firsthand assurances that the Soviet Union will firmly abide by its commitments, in particular to observe the schedule for the withdrawal of troops from the Western Group of Forces, which, as is well known, should be completed by the end of 1994. Thus the FRG Government's fears, clearly connected with a certain slowing down in the withdrawal process which has become apparent recently, have proved unfounded. Marshal Shaposhnikov put this down to purely seasonal factors. In summer the withdrawal was even somewhat ahead of schedule.

All this, the Soviet minister stressed at the Mahlwinkel Garrison, has been received with understanding by the German side. The main thing is that the ultimate goal remains unchanged—the condition that the FRG Government will equally firmly fulfill its treaty commitments, including those on the commissioning of housing for Soviet servicemen.

Until recently, as is well known, matters here were not proceeding as well as they might. If the FRG defense minister's statements are to be believed, construction has finally gotten underway. It has begun at six of the 33 designated sites, and preliminary talks on 14 other sites have been completed. Thus the construction of 8,800 apartments is now in progress in our country. It is believed that 2,000 of them will be handed over on a turnkey basis by the end of this year. In all, as is well known, the FRG Government has pledged to build 36,000 well-equipped apartments at its own expense.

However, it has turned out since the bilateral government documents on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops had been signed, that even this quantity is not enough to ensure normal housing conditions for all the returning generals, officers, and NCO's. However, the idea of the Western Group of Forces command to secure around 10 billion marks for the real estate left behind in Germany and use that money to build the much-needed housing is still up in the air.

The German Government has put forward its own serious argument, demanding from us approximately the same amount to rectify the damage done by Soviet servicemen to the environment in the FRG.

Unfortunately, Marshal Shaposhnikov's visit cast little light on this question, and it seems to be the only remaining question where the sides' positions have not managed to move significantly closer to the compromise the two sides want. Nevertheless, these positions, it seems, have become more clearly defined, and our military—at least Marshal Shaposhnikov himself—are pinning definite hopes for a positive outcome to this dispute on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to the FRG.

The problem of the Soviet troops' presence in and withdrawal from Germany is now an important factor in Soviet-German relations. That is well understood both in Moscow and Bonn. Their future will also depend greatly on the atmosphere in which our servicemen are going to live and work in Germany through the end of 1994 and on how painless for the two sides the completion of the Western Group of Forces units' withdrawal will be.

Defense Spokesman Reviews Visit

LD1611000891 Moscow TASS in English 2300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Nikitin]

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—"The creation of joint Soviet-German military formations was not discussed, although many Western correspondents raised this question," Lieutenant-General Valeriy Manilov, head of the Soviet Defence Ministry's Information Directorate, told TASS.

Manilov was the speaker at yesterday's briefing for Soviet and foreign correspondents on the results of the German visit of Soviet defence minister, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

It is too early to speak about the creation of such formations, although the relations between the Soviet Union and West Germany, developing on the principles of confidence, good-neighbourly relations and mutual understanding, do not exclude such progress of events, the spokesman noted.

Manilov said they want the comprehensive security system to be built on non-bloc basis. If it happens so, friendly relations in the military sphere may acquire such forms.

Shaposhnikov and his West German counterpart Stoltenberg have discussed and reached mutual understanding on the issues of cooperation in the military and technical sphere, expressed their satisfaction with the rates of the Soviet troops' withdrawal from Germany, and confirmed their determination to continue strictly abide by its schedule.

Since the very beginning and till the last moment of it, the visit was held in a friendly and warm atmosphere, Manilov stressed.

It testifies to the fact that in the centre of Europe, where the two armies have recently looked at each other through guns' sights, it became possible to hold frank and constructive conversations on the most topical and acute problems.

Stoltenberg accepted with gratitude the invitation of the Soviet Defence minister to visit the Soviet Union, Manilov said in conclusion.

Deryabin Meets Visiting UK Delegation

LD1611102391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2043 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (TASS)—The USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry Information Directorate reported today that Soviet-British consultations took place here between 12 and 13 November between R. Line, head of the Soviet Department of the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Current issues and future Soviet-British ties were discussed. The sides arrived at the conclusion that bilateral relations are developing steadily in spirit of agreements reached at the highest level.

It was recognized that the rich content and dynamic nature of ties between the USSR, sovereign republics, and Great Britain meets with the national interests of both sides and the world community on the whole.

R. Line was received by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Deryabin, says the report released by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. New possibilities for the development of the whole complex of Soviet-British relations were revealed in the course of conversations. The sides also held talks on the opening of their consulates on the territory of the two countries.

Delegation Ends 'Useful' Austrian Visit

LD1711191191 Moscow TASS in English 1843 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna November 17 TASS—Konstantin Lubenchenko, chairman of the Council of the Union of the Supreme Soviet legislature, described the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation to Austria as useful and substantive both in terms of carrying on conacts and clarifying the Austrian side's position as regards further interaction with the new Soviet Union.

The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Lubenchenko wound up its visit to Austria today.

Members of the Soviet parliament were received by federal President Kurt Waldheim and met President of the National Council (parliament) Heinz Fischer, General Secretary of the Austrian Foreign Ministry Thomas Klestil and representatives of the business community and trade unions. The sides discussed prospects for developing bilateral relations in the light of current complex processes in the Soviet Union.

"The Austrian side expresses readiness to continue cooperation with the community of republics in a variety of areas, including in the economy," Lubenchenko told TASS. He noted there was some concern in Austria about issues related to control over nuclear weapons in the USSR as well as about the developemnt of anti-democratic processes in the country.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation today left for Moscow.

Political & Social

Council Approves Union of Sovereign States

Grachev Briefs Journalists

PM1511142891 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 p 1

[S. Razin report on 14 November Novo-Ogarevo remarks by USSR presidential press secretary A. Grachev, plus interview with Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman L. Kravchuk by correspondent O. Musafirova: "Novo-Ogarevo Autumn"]

[Text] Autumn has well and truly arrived in Novo-Ogarevo. And you can sense this not only from the bare parkland around the famous residence, but also from the draft new Union treaty that was discussed at a USSR State Council session yesterday. It took nearly three months to revive the Novo-Ogarevo hopes after they were wrecked by the putsch.

However, it is hard to say how the State Council session went. More than 40 journalists who had responded to the "alert" were isolated in a separate house and languished all day in the company of an armed guard. True, after a couple of hours A. Grachev, press secretary to the USSR president, put in an appearance at the house. He asked for all the dictaphones and TV cameras to be switched off, and spent six minutes 42 seconds answering questions. A similar meeting was repeated slightly later, after dark.

The main information supplied by the press secretary was this: We are living in a different country. Formerly it was called the USSR, but now, apparently, the initials will be different: USS [SSG]—union of sovereign states. The leaders of the seven republics who have come to Novo-Ogarevo this time have agreed to preserve a political union, but only in the most general terms thus far. It is clear only that the new union is to be a single entity in international law, and all the remaining details still have to be worked out. The date for signing the treaty is unpredictable.

Most likely the political union will really be consolidated only after each republic has recovered in isolation and begun to revive its economy. Much depends, of course, on Russia, on how the radical reforms there proceed, but other facts are also encouraging: Concrete steps toward the market can be seen in the Baltic, Armenia, and Moldova. In Azerbaijan a common language has been found with the opposition. So the new Union treaty opens up very different horizons.

I. Silayev was elected chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee and prime minister of the community.

A Propos

In reply to a question from our correspondent O. Musafirova on the conference at Novo-Ogarevo, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman L. Kravchuk said:

"I was called and asked whether I would go. But I do not believe the Novo-Ogarevo process will culminate in success. What kind of a Union are we talking about, I keep wondering? If it is a question of resolving common questions, say, military-strategic or space questions, I would vote for it with both hands. But in that case it is essential to have a Union with ministries and departments and a presidential team, that is, a return to the old structures. The center is discredited. And so in my view everything must begin on a fundamentally new footing."

'Official Statement'

LD1511154991 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—The following official statement on yesterday's meeting of the State Council was circulated here today:

"A meeting of the USSR State Council was held at Novo-Ogaryovo on Thursday [14 November] chaired by President Mikhail Gorbachev. It was attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Azerbaijan Republic Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Republic of Kirghizstan Askar Akayev, vice-chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan Akbarsho Iskandarov, and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Turkmenistan Sakhat Muradov.

The council discussed the draft treaty on the Union of Sovereign States, finalised with proper account of the remarks made by the republics. It noted that the draft was brought abreast of the existing socio-political realities and meets the interests of the sovereign states, rallying into a new Union.

Decisions were adopted on all the basic provisions of the future treaty. The Union of Sovereign States, as it was decided by the State Council, will be a confederative democratic state.

Experts have been instructed to check the text of the draft treaty on the Union of Sovereign States and submit it for initialing to the next meeting of the State Council. The draft treaty is expected to be signed by plenipotentiary delegations after its discussion and approval by the supreme soviets of the sovereign states.

The structure of the Inter-State Economic Committee was approved by the State Council. Ivan Silayev was endorsed as its chairman.

In keeping with the decisions, adopted by the previous meeting of the State Council, the latter discussed and approved concrete proposals for the formation of single armed forces and the structure of the Interior Ministry, for a radical reform of the Foreign Ministry.

Views were exchanged on the drafting of agreements to the economic community treaty before its ratification by the parliaments of the sovereign republics.

The meeting discussed in detail the question of forming the country's emergency budget for the end of the current year. Chairman of the Inter-State Economic Committee Ivan Silayev was instructed to submit, jointly with the heads of government of the sovereign republics, concrete proposals on this score within three days from now."

Gorbachev Adviser Cited

LD1611183391 Moscow TASS in English 1652 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—The Union of Sovereign States, the formation of which was announced on November 14 by the leaders of seven former Union republics, will be a confederation, Veniamin Yakovlev, the Soviet president's adviser for legislation, said in an interview with the IZVESTIYA newspaper today.

The states which form the Union are sovereign, Yakovlev said, but along with this they will have something in common—the territory, the borders and citizenship.

According to him, republics that will sign the Union treaty will form a single political, economic and—to a degree—legal space. Some laws will be effective only on the territory of one or another state, but human rights will be protected by the same, common norms, Yakovlev stressed.

Commentary Assesses Results

LD1711143991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Station commentary; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The finale of the State Council meeting on 14 November was like the finale of a trial by jury. True, the high court judge, Gorbachev, did not have at the microphone the desired 12 jurors, only seven. Each of them had to say "guilty" or "not guilty", and each of them answered "guilty" in the sense that, yes, there is to be a union of sovereign states. It is hard to avoid the temptation of referring to this Novo-Ogarevo scene as their own trial. They sentenced themselves to the Union. The term of their sentence will be fixed in another sphere by history. The conditions of their detention will be varied, since all those sentenced are absolutely sovereign.

Indeed they have also sentenced themselves to sovereignty and now Moscow is breaking with Tashkent, the grivna with the ruble, and the White House with Chechnya. Each has in his own house so many problems that on the one hand he would very much like to hang them around the neck of the future Union but on the other hand the reputation of being an independent, decisive, and fearless leader with full powers is so dear to all those visiting Gorbachev at the Kremlin or at Novo-Ogarevo.

In this respect no one whatsoever will be reassured by what Yeltsin has to say, since he has already been sentenced like all the rest. Gorbachev is assembling the Union and Yeltsin is assembling a reform cabinet and extending the circle of those sentenced. There have been the first appointments and the first decrees and secular opinion has already been preparing in the press and on the screen the latest verdict on the leader and his youthful government. People are saying that those coming into the White House are enlightened but without experience. The trial is awaited of those who have placed on the president's table such bad decrees, on account of which he has just this week lost out in the Chechen- Ingush affair.

The specter of a trial is pursuing Gorbachev too. His request for credits of 30 billion rubles [R] threatens to escalate into an affair concerning the underground budget and the secret funds which have suddenly been discovered. The president has, allegedly in circumvention of parliament, already spent or allowed to be spent to the detriment of the budget no more or less than R93 billion.

The position of our leaders is desperate. The more therefore we value those of them who act headlong and for whose head perhaps less and less is given but whose life we appreciate more and more. Gorbachev has said that if we do not sign a Union treaty in December, he will resign. This is yet another verdict by a person on himself.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Views Treaty

LD1611235991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1111 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 16 Nov (TASS)—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes today that it has seen "a text of the interrepublican political agreement which is not yet being publicized".

The paper's correspondent Sergey Parkhomenko reports that at the beginning of this week the texts of amendments sent from eight republican capitals came into the possession of the authors group drafting the treaty.

In the writer's view, the very existence of these comments shows that the sovereign states are willing to renounce part of their sovereignty for the sake of concluding a political agreement.

The journalist considers that "Mikhail Gorbachev did not risk much by declaring on 12 November that he would resign if the idea of an interrepublican political union fell through".

The most substantial successes of the "unionists", as the author calls them, led by Mikhail Gorbachev concern the forming of a system of organs of power and government of the confederation. "They have managed to save from the encroachments of the republics" the Supreme Court, the High Court of Arbitration, the Union procuracy. The interstate economic committee receives the more modest status of an economic macro-ministry competent to coordinate the economic activities of the republics, the author says.

The journalist expresses the view that "what remains least clear, perhaps, is the situation regarding the Union presidency, however regrettable this may be for Mikhail Gorbachev; its future cannot in any case be circumscribed by an article of the treaty alone".

Shevardnadze, Laptev Cited

LD1711113891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0905 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Nov (TASS)—Chances to create a union of sovereign states remain, Eduard Shevardnadze, former USSR foreign minister and co-chairman of the Union of the Democratic Reforms Movement, thinks. It is not important what this united state will be called—a union or a confederation—in essence a new formation will be created, he said in an interview with TASS.

Eduard Shevardnadze believes that a single economic space, a single military-strategic space, and a single legal space will remain and an agreed foreign policy will be conducted. However, he thinks, "it needs to be done very quickly, otherwise we will lose everything". "A lot has been lost already: we should have thought about it in the first days after the putsch, but we have spent three months in debate already", he said.

There are still many difficulties on the way to signing a treaty of the union of sovereign states, but it is important that participants in the last meeting in Novo-Ogarevo came to agreement on the necessity of preserving a single state before the world community, Ivan Laptev, USSR people's deputy and former head of one of the chambers in the Union parliament, thinks. The republics, proceeding from their interests, came to the conclusion that they should create some coordinating bodies, interrepublican structures, and systems on a confederation basis, he told TASS. These structures and systems, on behalf of republics, will embody a new state as a subject of international relations.

Ivan Laptev expressed confidence that, in spite of the breakdown of the Union in its former shape, complete disintegration of the country will still not occur. "Economic, cultural, and other needs in one way or another will bring the republics to contacts." Creating a completely new formation is under discussion now, he continued. Sovereign states in Novo-Ogarevo agreed for the first time on a new type of interstate cooperation and partnership. For the first time it was clearly stated that a new interstate formation will not be able to rise higher than confederation level.

"I think that a very general, leaving a minimum of tasks to interstate structures, treaty will be signed on this basis, but it will still exist," Ivan Laptev said in conclusion.

Republics Issue Statement on Foreign Debt

LD1611171691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 16 Nov (TASS)—The press secretariat of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported:

The leaders of the foreign economic departments of the subject states of the former USSR, being authorized by the governments of their states to hold talks on the foreign debt and assets of the former USSR, have issued the following statement:

At present representatives of the former all-Union departments are holding talks on new foreign currency loans. The governments of the states whose representatives have signed the present statement have authorized no one to hold these talks, and cannot be responsible for carrying out the accords reached during them.

The governments of the states whose representatives have signed the present statement acknowledge responsibility for repayment of the USSR's foreign debt, and are willing to divide it among themselves on a fair basis. At the same time, our governments do not feel that they can hold themselves responsible for obligations undertaken without consultation with them by all-Union and interrepublican organizations on behalf of the USSR after the latter had, in effect, ceased to exist as a single state.

Taking into account the thesis of the memorandum on mutual understanding, with reference to the debt to foreign creditors incurred by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its legal successors, the conference decided to proceed from the basic principles of the treaty "On the sharing of responsibility for repayment of the foreign debt of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, division of the incoming payments and debt obligations of foreign states to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of the gold currency funds and reserves of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and of property, foreign investments, and other assets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" and to continue work on that draft.

The conference draws to the attention of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and also other international organizations the fact that the states whose representatives have signed the present statement have not instructed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to represent their interests in these organizations.

The document, which TASS received from the press secretariat of the RSFSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is signed by the heads of the foreign economic departments of Belarus [Belorussia], Kazakhstan, the RSFSR, and the Ukraine.

Changes for Foreign Ministry Previewed

Pankin on Staff Reductions

OW1511181591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In conformity with a resolution made by the USSR State Council, staff-levels in the planned new Foreign Relations Ministry will be half the combined levels of the USSR Ministry for Foreign Economic Ties, which is to be scrapped, and the USSR Foreign Ministry, which is subject to reorganization, said Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on November 15.

He said that the USSR State Council endorsed the USSR Foreign Ministry's restructuring program under which the ministry will become the Ministry for Foreign Relations. The new ministry will be responsible for foreign policy and foreign trade, said Mr. Pankin, and will draw up and pursue unified foreign policies on behalf of the Union and the sovereign republics. It will coordinate policies with the republics through a Council of Foreign Ministers and Foreign Relations (CFMFR).

The State Council approved the establishment both of the CFMFR and of the Ministry for Foreign Relations. According to the Soviet Foreign Minister, many jobs will be cut at Soviet embassies. Soviet trade offices in foreign countries will be scrapped altogether, to be replaced by economic departments within the Union embassies.

Petrovskiy on Reorganization

LD1511205291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1729 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Viktor Runov and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—The central apparatus of the former USSR Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations will be almost halved. Of the 5,000 people working in these departments it is proposed to leave 2,700 employees by January next year. Vladimir Petrovskiy, first deputy head of the country's foreign policy department, reported this at a meeting with journalists today.

As is known, a decision was adopted at yesterday's State Council meeting on the transformation of the USSR Foreign Ministry into a Ministry of External Relations to which some of the functions of the former Union Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations will be transferred.

There will also be a significant reductions in Soviet embassies abroad, the diplomat said. Their staff members are to include representatives of the sovereign republics in different ranks, including as ambassadors. In addition, 10 embassies and consulates- general are to be abolished and some heads of Soviet diplomatic missions abroad will have to hold concurrent posts in several countries.

The creation of the new structure of the Ministry of External Relations, Petrovskiy said, is dictated by the political realities which have now come about in the country. It is proposed that the main task of the department will be the implementation of the foreign policy both of the Union and of its constituent sovereign states. A body will be formed inside the ministry which will be involved in interrepublican interaction in order to combine harmoniously the interests of the union and of the sovereign republics.

Petrovskiy also stated that the financing of the USSR Ministry of External Relations will be carried out centrally by the Interrepublican Economic Committee.

Biography of New Ambassador to Israel Bovin

LD1411203691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has signed a decree on the appointment of Aleksandr Bovin as the Soviet Union's ambassador to Israel. Reliable sources revealed this to a TASS correspondent today.

Aleksandr Bovin is well known to Soviet people as the presenter of the popular television program "International Panorama." He found popularity among television viewers not only because of his imposing appearance, but also because of his bold and independent evaluations of international and domestic events. Lawyer, philosopher, and journalist—he repeatedly surprised television viewers and readers with his unusual evaluation of various events, even back in the days when any utterance differing from the generally-held view was considered to be seditious.

Aleksandr Bovin graduated from the law faculty of Rostov University after which he worked as a people's judge in Krasnodar Kray. He studied for his postgraduate qualification at the philosophical faculty of the Lomonosov Moscow State University. He worked as a scientific consultant for KOMMUNIST magazine from 1963-1972, and was a senior functionary working for the CPSU Central Committee. At this time he was well known in journalistic circles as an aide to Leonid Brezhnev, the former CPSU Central Committee general secretary. Clearly, his unusual approach to foreign and domestic events meant that his powerful patron found him to be wanting—therefore in 1972 he left to work as a political observer for the IZVESTIYA newspaper.

Aleksandr Bovin has been awarded the Order of Lenin, is a USSR State prize laureate, and is a recipient of the Vorovskiy Prize.

7 Nov Rally, Participation Assessed

PM1511155391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Nov 91 p 2

[Boris Slavin article: "Life Will Be the Judge. What the October Days Showed in the Capital"]

[Text] I'm sure the 7 November demonstration in Moscow will go down in history as the first mass demonstration by working people opposing certain trends in the policy of the new forces that came to power on the crest of the wave of anti-putschist feeling among the people in "August-91." It took Muscovites less than three months to realize that the authorities describing themselves as democratic are not working people's authorities.

Despite the anticommunist hysteria in the country, Soviet people by no means scoop up everything they are fed. They do not want to be guinea pigs either for the old partyocrats or for the new bureaucrats who are attempting to implement the initial accumulation of capital by sharply worsening the people's living standards. The participants in the rally on October Square unambiguously declared that today they can see no fundamental difference between the policies of the two Kremlin presidents, who they believe have reduced the country to collapse and the people to poverty. The speakers demanded that these policies be condemned and that a firm course of saving the homeland be adopted.

In the best traditions of the period of stagnation, official propaganda did its utmost to hush up the mass nature and political significance of the demonstration, which mustered around 100,000 people of various ages and occupations. Television showed a few fragments of the rally and march but tried to convince viewers that it was a demonstration by war and labor veterans who live perpetually in the past and whom you cannot induce to change, despite gifts from the new authorities like free travel on city transport, free soup in cafeterias for the poor, and so forth.

No, gentlemen and comrades, you must be objective! It was not only veterans who marched in the columns of demonstrators 7 November. There were also representatives of all generations of Muscovites. They were demanding from the Moscow and Russian governments not charity but firm state guarantees regarding the improvement of their material situation and social security. They were demonstrating their disagreement with the decline in the people's living standards because of the liberalization of prices and the predatory up-for-grabs "privatization" of apartments and enterprises, which is making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The slogans and placards revealed the demonstrators' unequivocal attitude toward the attempts to bring our country into world civilization not as a great power but as a colony dependent on foreign capital.

The demonstration showed that, as a rule, Muscovites will not accept either the old or the new totalitarianism and that they are in favor of preserving the Soviet form of power and filling it with democratic content. Despite various sociological surveys showing the unpopularity of Leninist traditions, the demonstrators unanimously voiced their opposition to the defamation of everything connected with the name of Lenin. Only a deaf person could have failed to hear the thousands of voices in Red Square chanting the leader's [Lenin's] name. The future will show whether or not the Kremlin heard these voices.

It is symbolic that the demonstration was organized not by former functionaries from the CPSU but by workers united in the Moscow Worker Councils. The degree of organization shown by the participants and the lack of any excesses during the demonstration are very revealing. At the same time I think that the demonstration's success, mass nature, and colorful form were probably not so much down to the organizers as the result of a spontaneous impulse on the part of the Muscovites, who want to say a categorical "no" to the new policy! But this policy has still not unfolded in all its devastating completeness. We shall soon see how things go. At any rate, the authorities' promises to introduce coupons for a number of foodstuffs are clearly a first step designed to reassure the masses, but this step runs counter to the idea of liberalization. Clearly, the fear of losing power is still stronger than even the most badly needed idea. But when prices are free it will be impossible to exchange the coupons for goods: Everything will be bought up and resold.

Many neoliberals cite the experience of Poland. But this experience is by no means unequivocal: The decline in the living standards of the majority of Poles compared with the past is a self-evident fact, although the shelves in stores are packed with goods. Despite the fact that there has always been private ownership in Poland, privatization there is having a rough ride—at any rate, it has not produced the effect anticipated by the doctors of shock therapy. As a result the economic shock has been succeeded by a political shock whereby the communists, who had quit the arena of active political life, have again become the second most influential party in parliament. That is food for thought for our advocates of "Polish lessons"!

The rally heard open speeches opposing the prohibition on the activity of the CPSU and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party. People marched up to the microphones to demand the restoration of democracy, which cannot be complete and effective without left-wing forces. Betrayed by their leaders, ordinary communists are trying to unite in new organizations created from below. Many placards and banners called for this.

Representatives of various organizations and associations took part in the demonstration. There were both left-wingers and right-wingers. There was also some extremism: The leader of the centrist current of the former Marxist platform was not allowed to speak on October Square. The undue shrillness and maximalism of certain demands by the speakers, usually those belonging to leftist groupings, were less than inspiring. But I think that these manifestations of the "infantile disorder of leftism" will soon pass. In time what will emerge is a serious bloc of socialist-oriented left-wing forces capable of curbing neototalitarian tendencies and of politically defending the working people from the consequences of the unfettered market that the former double-dyed partyocrats who have become equally double-dyed democrats are calling for and working toward. Red was the predominant color in the columns of demonstrators, which cannot be said of Moscow itself, which for the first time in 74 years looked gray and cheerless. Clearly, people were afraid of the new bosses from city hall. But Emilia Pampos, a little woman from Lisbon in Moscow on a business trip, was not afraid to carry a large red flag. When I asked what had made her go to the demonstration, she replied: "Solidarity with your country's communists and working people." Her words sounded simple and weighty.

The alternative demonstration by those who see the October revolution as nothing but a tragedy for the people was different in its character and scale. They carried the Russian tricolor edged in black in memory of those who died during the civil war and in the cells of the gulag. The participants in this demonstration refused to see any difference between the ideals of October and the perversion of those ideals, between Leninism and Stalinism, and between socialism and totalitarianism. What can be said in this connection? It is supremely immoral to justify the Stalinist repression and the crimes of the totalitarian system of power, but it is equally immoral to equate the butchers and the victims, Stalin and Lenin, and revolutionary extremists and genuine revolutionaries. The former lived for themselves, the latter lived for the people.

According to official figures, the alternative demonstration mustered about 2,000 people. Last year, when the democrats were not yet in power, there were far more people at the analogous demonstration. Why is this? Why were there fewer participants? Is it not because those who have today secured their objective by taking over political power have lost interest in them? And maybe there is disillusionment with the new authorities among those who only recently supported and defended them outside the "White House"? Many democrats have today lost the linchpin of their activity, so to speak: They have brought their leaders into power and now, in conditions where there is no political opposition, they are beginning to conflict with each other. These conflicts will increase as the social ground is cut out from beneath their feet. This ground is mostly made up of certain strata of the intelligentsia and young people. But these are precisely the strata most vulnerable in conditions of market relations and the future privatization and liberalization of prices. At present they are disoriented, but they will soon switch to the camp of left-wing forces. And unless before then the democrats succeed in stabilizing society and creating a powerful middle class of entrepreneurs (and that is highly dubious: Classes do not emerge overnight), defeat lies in store for them.

The demonstrators marched down the middle of the streets stretching from October Square to Red Square. On the sidewalks there were long lines of people waiting for bread outside the bakeries. Some people left the lines and joined the demonstrators. What motivated them to do so? In this connection I recalled a discussion about waiting lines. Some people claimed that lines in Russia are the result of the implementation of the ideas of October, while others countered that, on the contrary, they are the result of deviations from those ideas. As I walked along I thought that life will soon give an unambiguous answer to the participants in that debate.

TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Nov

LD1011094291 Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS— The Novo-Ogarevo meeting on Thursday [14 November] which brought encouraging results of a possibility of a political alliance is in the focus of press attention today. A new name for the confederation has been suggested—the Union of Sovereign States. PRAVDA writes on the occasion very respected people were taking the important decision but a final word will be pronounced by the people themselves. Referendum is certainly not a cheap action, however the voice of the people must be heard.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA which claims to have obtained the confidential text of the agreement writes the Union president's status remains most uncertain no matter how sad this may sound for Mikhail Gorbachev. His future cannot be described by a single entry in the treaty and will not be resolved at the Novo-Ogarevo tea party.

The Soviet press reports the Russian Government presided over by Boris Yeltsin gathered in the former Communist Party Politburo Headquarters on Friday [15 November] to consider a number of urgent measures to implement economic reform.

PRAVDA comments on certain aspects of Russian presidential decree on Communist Party activity and writes all articles in the decree must be supported by evidence which is either non-existent or necessary to be obtained. In the meantime it is substituted by suspicions and allusions which are not suitable for a noble deed.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries a statement signed by a group of Russian Communist Party secretaries protesting against the presidential decree to lift Communist Party activity on the territory of Russia and against insulting accusations of communists and their organisation.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA thinks Yeltsin woke up communist secretaries by his decree of November 6 banning the Communist Party and the secretaries are launching a counter campaign.

Soviet newspapers give wide coverage to the situation in Checheno-Ingushetia. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with the Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev who said his parliament took a decision not to conduct any negotiations before the Chechen republic is recognised as an independent state and its president is recognised by Russia.

PRAVDA writes Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic reminds of Petrograd after the November coup of 1917 with its national guard posts around the city. Nevertheless life returns to normal in Groznyy.

TRUD carries an interview with the Soviet Control Chamber president under the title "State Bank Gold Not Found" who claims his experts analysed state bank resources and came to a conclusion there is neither 374 nor 240 tons of gold in the bank. There is no gold there at all.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA analyses the reasons for unrest in Siberian colonies and suggests government must thoroughly consider the economic situation in Soviet prisons.

The Soviet missile artillerists observe their holiday today. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an order issued by the Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov congratulating the Soviet missile and artillery troops on the occasion.

Soviet strategic missile troops commander-in-chief General Yuriy Maksimov discusses the present-day life and problems of the Soviet missile troops in an article in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

PRAVDA invites "the Soviet new rich" not to waste their millions at all kinds of auctions but to assist the defenders of our native land instead.

The Soviet joint chiefs of staff commander Vladimir Lobov in TRUD today analyses national aspects of military reform and writes political, social and economic problems must be dealt with from both the national and international standpoints, the military reform being no exception to that.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with a new Defence Ministry central financial department chief Vasiliy Vorobev who informs the readers a concept outlining armed forces programme to enter market economy is drawing near completion in the ministry.

Situation in Yugoslavia remains the leading topic in international news. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and a number of other newspapers carry information on the shelling of a Soviet river vessel near the town of Vukovar.

TASS Carries PRAVDA Review for 18 Nov

LD1811084291 Moscow TASS in English 0644 GMT 18 Nov 91

["PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—Today's PRAVDA comments a number of recent decrees signed by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. These include a decree lifting restrictions on wages from December 1, 1991, a decree on the extraction and use of precious metals and diamonds on Russian territory, a decree liberalizing foreign economic activity on the territory of the Russian Federation. The newspaper expresses hope that measures proposed in these decrees will become a major landmark on the road towards reviving Russia and raising the well-being of its citizens.

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetian Republic A. Galazov tells PRAVDA about reasons for establishing a Republican Guard. He said in an interview with PRAVDA Ingush people continue claiming territory in North Ossetia and stressed that in this conditions "the task of the Guard and self-defence forces is to safeguard the republic's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

PRAVDA carries a statement by former head of the Soviet Government Nikolay Ryzhkov who refutes he had anything to do with the alleged "transfer by the Soviet Union of its entire stock of platinum to Switzerland," as reported by the DAILY TELEGRAPH and cited by PRAVDA last Friday [15 November].

Yevgeniy Myslovskiy, senior investigator into cases of special importance at the Russian Procurator-General's office, devoted his article "Ligachev Versus Gdlyan" to an analysis of a chapter from former Politburo member and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Yegor Ligachev's book "Gorbachev's Enigma." The chapter, entitled "Gdlyan and Others" and published in a separate brochure, offers Ligachev's view on the activity of Telman Gdlyan and Nikolay Ivanov, who for a number of years investigated criminal activities of party chiefs and state functionaries in Uzbekistan, as well as in the centre. Ligachev holds that the investigation had been plotted by reactionaries aiming to implement their far-going plans of "making the country capitalist."

Stressing the two investigators' honesty both as citizens and investigators, Myslovskiy says the persecution they were subjected to and attempts to prevent them from conducting investigation and their election to the Soviet parliament were instigated by certain Communist Party leaders seeking to avert "washing dirty linen in public."

In his brochure Yegor Ligachev appears as a champion of this policy toward the investigators who were the first to challenge the corrupted top echelon of the party and state.

Vladimir Bashmachnikov, president of the Association of Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia, discusses problems of farm management and difficulties facing Soviet farmers and lease holders in their work. He points out that these difficulties are not only objective in nature, but very often are masterminded by local leaders.

USSR Minister of Information and the Press Mikhail Nenashev speaks in an interview with PRAVDA about Soviet publishing business and its problems and suggests specific measures to protect publishers from bankruptcy which he views as a threat to national culture as a whole.

Analyzing preliminary results of talks in Moscow between a delegation from the Afghan opposition and the leaders of the USSR and Russia, PRAVDA notes that the prevailing viewpoint shared by the Kabul leaders and common Afghan citizens is that ultimatums are no way to overcome the crisis. What government should be in power in Kabul is for the Afghan people to decide through general elections.

PRAVDA carries an exclusive interview with the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Speaking about some international problems, the leader reiterated the Libyan leadership's special position on them. He described the recent Middle East peace conference in Madrid as a failure and noted that "peace in the region is impossible." Al-Qadhdhafi said Israel and the United States were to blame and stressed that the United States was seeking world domination as never before.

As regards Soviet-Libyan relations, the Libyan leader expressed regret over the "disintegration of the USSR," noting that "the Soviet Union can be spoken about only in the past tense and this is a great loss." Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the disintegration of the Soviet Union negatively affected the whole world.

Economic

Silayev Interviewed on Economic Situation

LD1511203191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0608 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Interview with Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee, by Radio Mayak political observer Valeriy Kiosa, from the office of the Committee for Operational Management of the USSR National Economy in Moscow—live]

[Text] [Kiosa] We are at the very center of Moscow, at Pushkinskaya Street, where the country's Committee for Operational Management of the USSR National Economy is situated. But Ivan Stepanovich Silayev receives us today not as head of this provisional body, but as chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee [MEK], the prime minister of the community. Ivan Stepanovich was approved in this post by the State Council yesterday [words indistinct]. Mayak once again congratulates you, Ivan Stepanovich, on this appointment, and notes, at the same time, that this is your first interview in this new capacity.

[Silayev] Yes, the first one.

[Kiosa] There is an approved structure for this body, but when will the committee as a whole emerge [words indistinct]?

[Silayev] First, thank you for your greetings. Yes, such a decision was made yesterday, and today I have to act in a somewhat new capacity. I am on my own, alone for the time being, and this makes my first task more difficult. It is necessary to put it together in full within a very short period, within three or four weeks, I think. But we already will be starting work today, today and tomorrow. We will start by actively forming this committee. Candidates have been selected. The initial proposals will be submitted to the president today and then, perhaps, we will start.

[Kiosa] But in order to solve the very complex tasks which are facing your committee now, one will need the corresponding levers of administration. Otherwise one could find himself in the situation of the British queen, who reigns but does not rule. Will there be such levers? What is the situation in this area, especially if one takes into account the fact that as of today, 15 November, the financing of the Union ministries in general will stop?

[Silayev] Well, first, the main levers are described in the treaty on the economic community. The rights and duties are defined clearly there. We must draw up a budget and estimates in the near future. We will interact closely with republican bodies, naturally.

Regarding the very sore issue that you have touched upon, that of discontinuing the activity of the main ministries, first, the conclusion was drawn yesterday that the most important ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Economy, will continue functioning, at least until the end of this year. We have reached an agreement in principle; one now has to think about how he is going to work in the new conditions.

Regarding the other branches, work aimed at self-elimination will be carried out. Their main functions are being transferred to the enterprises themselves, and some of them are being transferred to republics, for example to the Russian Federation. This is a painful and complex process, but it is, on the whole, a responsibility of the MEK, which is just starting to operate.

[Kiosa] This process could become quite painful, indeed, especially if one considers that there are only 45 days until the next year begins. But how will financing be provided for the time being for those enterprises which rely on the central budget?

[Silayev] You are indirectly—or rather, straight away—raising the issue which came up quite sharply yesterday. It concerns the study of the budget for the fourth quarter. This issue was discussed very sharply as well. Financial bodies, myself, and republican prime ministers were instructed to examine within three days the proposals which had been prepared. The proposals also require a certain change in the time limits for the complete disbandment of ministries.

Properly speaking, the entire mechanism for financing enterprises and their investment activities has been managed by the relevant ministry subdivisions. Consequently, we raised the following issue yesterday: If not the entire ministry, the relevant financial bodies must continue working for at least a month. We also have been given the right, together with Leonid Andreyevich [not further identified], to sort out this issue and to submit proposals for action. This must not become a day of sudden change which will simply cut off all functions and will leave [word indistinct] enterprises helpless. No, a short transitional period will be necessary.

We proposed to move the time limit for complete elimination to 15 December. We have been instructed to look for possibilities until 1 December; there will be a short time when one can carry out the operation of abolishing ministries and creating normal conditions for financing all our active financial structures for the remaining portion of November and December.

[Kiosa] In other words, the approach is becoming more professional, and this can only make one happy. I am glad that we have touched upon yesterday's State Council session. You participated in the discussion on economic problems. Yesterday, before and during the session, the media voiced the harshest views. The possibility of disaster and the need to make immediate decisions regarding the budget—we have spoken about the budget—the banks, servicing the foreign debt, and the credit system were mentioned. Which way did the discussion of these issues develop? What can you say? Was there any progress toward solutions?

[Silayev] First, it appeared that the degree to which the revenue aspect of the Union budget had failed to be fulfilled was kind of a surprise. All those political aggravations, mutual recriminations, and mistrust in the center have resulted in the fact that the degree to which the revenue section of the budget has been fulfilled amounted to only 30 percent, 30 to 35 percent [words indistinct]. Expenditures, naturally, were rising sharply with the rising cost of living, the need to pay out benefits, and so on. A colossal gap between revenue and expenditure has resulted. A situation has come about in which there is no money to pay wages, stipends, benefits, and so on.

Admittedly, the new Supreme Soviet has taken a somewhat prejudiced and suspicious attitude toward this most important problem. What suspicions can there be when only 30 percent of the revenues have been received by the Union Treasury, while actual spending has increased? A very serious situation has arisen. Yesterday, we submitted to the State Council an extraordinary budget which effectively defines this year's deficit as somewhere around 200 billion rubles. This is a very, very large figure. That means that the debt, the common internal debt, is increasing. This is the result of the general process involving the falling exchange rate of the ruble.

The ruble has a very important role to play. But at least it must not come as a surprise. One must look at the situation and thoroughly sort it out. At any rate, we already have realized this. The conclusion that should be drawn is that there indeed is a need to improve the economy. This is a direct sign that our economy is in an extremely difficult situation, and the proposal that the economy should be reformed radically—well, there is no other way out.

[Kiosa] Yesterday the politicians agreed with this, did they not?

[Silayev] Yes, what else can they do? The situation cannot be salvaged by trying to explain things and by reproaching all of our predecessors. It is necessary to actively embark upon radical reform.

[Kiosa] I have two very brief questions to ask you, but they relate directly to yesterday's session. Yesterday, the main sovereign states and the president of the country fundamentally agreed on the political treaty which will serve as the foundation of the Union treaty. On 18 November, the representatives of the G-7, the leading Western countries, will arrive in Moscow. On 19 November, as far as I know, you will hold talks with them. Can you tell us this: Can yesterday's meeting of the State Council and its decisions have any influence on the progress of these talks? If so, what sort of influence?

[Silayev] I believe above all that these political talks will have a bearing on the implementation of the treaty, including [word indistinct]. It can be expected [word indistinct] that one of the main purposes is to map out a more clear-cut direction and ways in which the pledges declared in the treaty can be fulfilled more rigorously, because, at the present time, there are, regrettably, instances of quite slipshod behavior and attitudes toward this treaty. There are instances of hold-ups in rail traffic, jammings of gas pipelines, etc.

First, all of these economic ambitions obviously—I hope—will be limited by political commitments. Second, the same chaotic, let us say, processes are putting our Western partners on guard. They openly tell us that they are ready to integrate actively into our economy provided there at least are some signs of guarantees that the political situation—not only the economic one—is stabilizing. This is one of the serious conditions. Thus, the positive results of yesterday's talks in Novo-Ogarevo will have a favorable and direct influence on the situation and even on the results of the talks with the G-7.

[Kiosa] Here is another problem which is quite critical today and which has the most serious consequences: the food problem. The situation is catastrophic, and we all know it, those of us who go shopping every day. What will change here after Novo-Ogarevo?

[Silayev] Well, one can hardly expect a direct—let us say—effect and some positive results from yesterday's meeting alone. Obviously it will be essential to convince the G-7 on 19 November that the political situation in our country, in that connection, is stabilizing, and this means that they should start carrying out their plans regarding our debts. These debts weigh heavily upon us; we are being forced to use all of our hard currency earnings to repay our debts instead of importing food, of which there is such a shortage.

I hope that we can manage to reach an agreement with them on changing the conditions for repayment and, moreover, that they will suspend the repayment of our debts until a much later date. By that time we already will have our own hard currency possibilities for purchasing grain, meat, and vegetable oil, which is acutely needed now. And the credits which the Western banks are ready to grant us will start working.

I expect that the meeting with the G-7 will have a positive effect and that, of course, yesterday's meeting in Novo-Ogarevo will have some influence on this.

[Kiosa] Here is the last question, Ivan Stepanovich. Today is your first working day as chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee. What kind of day will it be?

[Silayev] It will be a day of talks with candidates for the relevant posts in our [words indistinct].

[Kiosa] [Word indistinct] success and good luck to you. Thank you very much. See you on Mayak's Morning Panorama next Friday. Today's panorama continues, and I am handing it over to the studio in Ostankino.

Silayev Comments on 'Urgent' Economic Issues

LD1511222791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report on an interview with Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, identified by caption as the "prime minister of the community," by Sergey Slipchenko in Silayev's office; date not given; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Slipchenko] Do you go shopping?

[Silayev] Just to buy bread.

[Slipchenko] But still, you do. Do you understand what is going on in shops at the moment?

[Silayev] I do indeed.

[Slipchenko] Do you understand what is happening to the ordinary people who go shopping? Well, in your opinion, regarding the committee that you are now heading, what are the first steps it will have to take tomorrow, or even today, in order to—at least to some degree—ease the situation which exists behind [as heard] large offices?

[Silayev] The issues are becoming so urgent today that one can turn to any one of them at random. All of them are literally crying out for action, including those you are talking about—the situation in the shops, the situation in the market, the situation with foodstuffs. It would have been wrong, however, for me to promise anything at the moment and to say that tomorrow we will put something right, or improve something. I understand the main tasks—they are also outlined in the economic treaty of the community—and they amount to the implementation of radical economic programs. Only in this way will it be possible today to restore some kind of order and to improve what we have been trying to improve, and in so doing have only so far brought about further deterioration. [end recording]

[Slipchenko] Things will not get better tomorrow, Ivan Stepanovich said. However, everybody who works at the Interstate Economic Committee, including himself, will be improving the life of the people in the end. We seriously link the improvement of the situation with food, and indeed with support from the West. A meeting with the financiers from the G-7 will take place next week. They are arriving with questions on possible economic support. This concerns first the supply of foodstuffs and medicines.

[Begin recording] [Silayev] There is quite a lot of talk that the center is allegedly being revived, that there is again a yoke of some kind or a dictate over us all, etc. One does, in fact, get upset by such pronouncements. I would like to say at this point that I have spent too much effort and energy on fighting such a center to actually want, after getting this job, to start it all over again. On the contrary, I think it is one of my important tasks not to allow this to happen.

[Slipchenko] There is a phone there, on your left, a direct line to officials, and in fact there are no names of officials on it yet. What does that mean? Does it mean that more people will be joining this place?

[Silayev] Yes, as a matter of fact it was covered with names originally, giving all the details on them. But that has all been removed and now, for the second time in my life, I am effectively starting afresh and forming a team. It happened the first time in Russia. Now I seem to have a certain amount of experience and I have learned certain lessons which I am absolutely going to use. This is going to be a really professional team, only professionals. There will most certainly be no place for any political ambitions. We have too little time to waste it on slowly warming up to work. My idea is that the mechanism must be fully operational within two weeks, three at the most. That is our most urgent task. [end recording]

Management Committee Confirms Gold Reserves

OW1511122091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0750 GMT 15 Nov 91

[From "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [9 November], Mr. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy head of the Economic Management Committee, confirmed that the USSR has 240 tons of gold reserves. In 1990, the Soviet Union exported 474.5 tons of gold and extracted only 302 tons. Mr. Yavlinsky said that there is "no data" to suggest that the Communist Party, the KGB, or the Army had appropriated any of the Soviet Union's gold. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the largest producers of gold after Russia, have already announced that they would stop contributing gold to the all-Union fund.

Official Says State Bank 'Bankrupt', No Gold

LD1611063591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Under the headline "Where is the USSR State Bank's Gold?" TRUD prints an interview with USSR Control Chamber Chairman Orlov. Our specialists, he says, have analyzed the gold situation and come to the conclusion that the USSR State Bank is bankrupt. But the most frightening thing of all is the fact that there is no gold at all in the USSR State Bank—neither 374 tons nor 240 tons.

Exports of 'Hard-Currency Cargo' Questioned

PM1711215191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At Least Five Tonnes of Gold and Platinum Have Been Moved Out of the Country By and For Persons Unknown in the Past Month and a Half"]

[Text] The IZVESTIYA Editorial Office has in its possession documents showing that Aeroflot flights to Paris, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Zurich, and other cities have carried 5,213 kg (gross weight) of so-called "hard-currency cargo" in the past month and a half. We were told at Sheremetyevo-2 Airport that only gold, platinum, and platinum-group metals are classed as "hard-currency cargo" by the truck transport service; even silver is not classed in this category.

In order to provide some proof we would report that on 1 October Flight SU-255 to Frankfurt carried eight cases weighing 521 kg, and Flight SU-265 to Zurich carried two containers weighing four kg. On 10 October Flight SU-229 to Amsterdam carried 15 containers weighing 213 kg, while Flight SU-575 flew to Tokyo with 63 containers weighing 1,427 kg. On 17 October Flight SU-229 flew to Amsterdam with 209 kg of "hard-currency cargo" in 10 containers. The most intensive of these cargo shipments took place on 13 November. That day, Flight KL-302 to Warsaw carried 33 containers with a total weight of 877 kg, Flight SU-265 to Zurich carried 51 containers weighing 1,532 kg, Flight SU-251 to Paris carried 18 kg of cargo in a single container, and Flight SU-255 to Frankfurt carried 15 containers weighing 412 kg.

The editorial office's attempts to determine the specific nature of the "hard-currency cargo" going abroad and who the shippers and recipients were have been unsuccessful so far because, strangely enough, this information did not appear on the accompanying documentation. The editorial office therefore has even greater reason to ask the competent authorities for an explanation, which is what we are doing.

We ask the leaders of the Sheremetyevo-2 Airport Cargo Complex to answer the question: **What is the exact nature and quantity of the "hard-currency cargo" sent abroad this year via the airport?**

If it really is a question of precious metal exports, we would ask the leadership of the USSR Ministry of Finance and the USSR State Depository to answer the following question: **On whose orders, by whom, to whom, and for what purpose are such large quantities of national assets being sent abroad?**

As the organization tasked with monitoring operations of this kind, involving exports of precious metals abroad, we would ask the Interrepublic Security Service (the former KGB) to explain **if its leadership is aware of the export by Aeroflot of our gold reserves, why this is being done, and how legal these operations are.**

For its part, IZVESTIYA reserves the right to conduct its own investigation into the circumstances surrounding the taking of our gold reserves out of the country.

On our newspaper's publication day [v den vykhoda v svet] we received additional information: On 7 November Flight AFL-243 to London carried 48 cases weighing a total of 3,159 kg. Each case contained five gold ingots, and this time the shipper was identified as the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank].

This information means we have to add the Vneshekonombank to our list of organizations to be questioned. We would ask its leadership to tell us: **For what purpose and on whose orders were these 240 bars of precious metal shipped?**

Republican Entrepreneurs Create Council

OW1811134891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Entrepreneurs from all ex-Soviet republics, including the Baltic states and Transcaucasia, have held a conference in Tashkent where they unanimously called for preservation of a single economic and monetary space within the borders of the former Union. The conference decided that the Coordinating Council of Entrepreneurs would open its permanent mission in St. Petersburg, and its headquarters in Tashkent.

According to the Soviet president's adviser Stanislav Skopovskiy, the conference was important inasmuch as it helped businessmen establish direct contacts. "Only by pooling their efforts can the republics overcome the present economic chaos," Mr. Skopovskiy observed.

The council intends to closely cooperate with the USSR State Council, and the parliaments and economic management bodies in the republics.

Military

Shaposhnikov Comments on Republic Armies' Role

LD1611090591 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report on interview with USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; Shaposhnikov in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] [Announcer] When some republics of the former Soviet Union said they would build their own armed forces, nations around the world stopped to wonder what would become of the Soviet Armed Forces. A Radio Moscow correspondent has taken some questions to the Defense Minister, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, to clear up the situation.

The first question was: What can development of republican armies lead to?

[Shaposhnikov] These unilateral moves by some republics clash with a general concept laid by the national parliament, a concept of common armed forces and collective security. The Soviet Ministry of Defense has looked for ways over the past few months of a common approach toward armed forces. Unfortunately, the ministry has far from always had its proposals understood. On the contrary, some were rejected by the Ukrainian parliament. After the State Council discussed the question a decision was adopted the other day to support the concept of common armed forces.

[Announcer] If this is the situation, then how can republics take part in controlling these united armed forces?

[Shaposhnikov] The defense ministers of sovereign republics are setting up a council to meet every month or more often if they need to. They can meet in Moscow or in the capitals of republics, anywhere they wish. They will solve military problems, the financing of armed forces and their strength and manning, for instance. But this does not necessarily mean that the defense ministers of republics will control the national armed forces. The Soviet defense minister will do this through his general staff.

[Announcer] Under the military reform the army is to become professional.

[Shaposhnikov] Legal acts are being prepared to reduce the army service from 24 months to 18. Besides, a decision has been adopted for the Armed Forces to follow a mixed manning principle. The military service will remain universal, but after the soldier has served for six months he will be offered a contract of paid service from three to five years long. I have talked to boys now in the Army and understood many would be glad to serve in this way.

[Announcer] Now, the Soviet Union is withdrawing troops from other countries. What about the troops stationed in Cuba?

[Shaposhnikov] Media tend to go too far. When the Defense Ministry said it was going to have talks with Cuba, media reported that it had already decided to pull out troops from it, what's more, before the year is out. I believe it's up to Cuba in the first place to decide. We don't insist on keeping our troops anywhere.

[Announcer] And the last question: How decisions were adopted in response to President Bush's peace proposal. There were reports that this country's reciprocal initiatives were outlined by a group that included representatives of both the Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry.

[Shaposhnikov] The joint group was set up by decision of the president. It worked for several days and nights, scrutinizing President Bush's initiatives. It went even further in its reciprocal moves. President Bush suggested dismantling sea-based tactical weapons, to get rid of some and stockpile the rest, but we decided on ridding seas of tactical nuclear weapons so we suggested scrapping them altogether. We outstripped President Bush where strategic nuclear forces are concerned, too. We suggested returning to Reykjavik and cutting by 50 percent as compared to the 37 percent as Bush and Gorbachev decided at their latest meeting. We also proposed to the Americans that a statement should be signed to repudiate the first use of nuclear weapons. Besides, we proposed to them that nuclear weapons tests be stopped and a moratorium set. As the first step in this direction, we announced a decision to suspend nuclear weapons tests for 12 months.

Lobov Remarks on Nationalities Issue

LD1711152191 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The problem of nationalities is one of the most complicated issues to be solved in the course of military reform, the chief of staff of the Soviet Army, Vladimir Lobov, said in an interview. The rapid advance of the former Soviet republics towards sovereignty, their attempts to set up national armed forces are creating a lot of political, economic, social, and other problems.

Vladimir Lobov emphasized the need of preserving the single armed forces of the country. He sees their mission in defending the independence and integrity of a Union state.

Shaposhinikv Issues Missile Forces Day Order

PM1811102191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[USSR Defense Minister "Order of the Day" No. 507]

[Text] 16 Nov, Moscow—Comrade soldiers and sailors, sergeants and petty officers!

Comrade ensigns and warrant officers!

Comrade officers, generals and admirals!

Comrade workers, engineers, and technicians in the defense industry!

On 17 November 1991 the USSR Armed Forces personnel and the Soviet people celebrate Missile Forces and Artillery Day—a holiday which has its roots in the terrible years of the Great Patriotic War, when the volleys of thousands of Soviet guns and rocket launchers announced the start of the Soviet Army's counteroffensive near Stalingrad.

Having taken over the task of selfless service to the motherland, the missile forces and artillery men in single formation with the servicemen of other branches of the USSR Armed Forces are tirelessly improving their combat skill and are maintaining combat readiness at the proper level. The formidable modern weapons and combat equipment created by the Soviet people's creative genius is in reliable hands.

I greet and congratulate the personnel of the USSR on their holiday—Missile Forces and Artillery Day—and wish them new achievements in military labor and the practical implementation of the tasks facing the Army and Navy!

To the scientists and workers of the defense industry I wish a successful quest and achievements in creating modern new systems of missile and artillery weapons!

I wish the missile troops and artillery veterans long fruitful years of life and successes in military-patriotic education!

I express the certainty that the missile forces and artillery men will continue with dignity and honor to fulfill their military duty and sacredly preserve and augment the glorious combat traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces.

[signed] Aviation Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, USSR defense minister

Ministry Depoliticization Panel Meets

PM1411165591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Unnamed TASS correspondent report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Draft Examined"]

[Text] Moscow—A routine session of the USSR Defense Ministry commission to abolish military-political organs and set up combat training organs and structures working with USSR Armed Forces personnel examined a draft provisional statute 12 November on competitive entry for posts in structures working with Army and Navy personnel. The need for this kind of competitive selection arose due to the large number of candidates for these posts at regiment and ship of Classification 1 level and above.

It was also decided to turn what was the USSR Armed Forces Main Military-Political Directorate Center for Studies of Social and Psychological Problems into the USSR Defense Ministry Center of Military-Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Studies with the functions and status of a research institution. The center's main tasks will include performing up-to-the-minute practical studies in the Army and Navy, carrying out scientific appraisal of managerial decisions, analyzing the possible social consequences of acts formulated by organs of military management, etc. It has been decided to leave the number of the center's staffers at its former level.

The commission concluded that the new subject in servicemen's training is to be called "socio-humanitarian training" since this term best accords with the spirit of the time.

Defense Ministry Commercial Center Established

PM1811133391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS correspondent O. Moskovskiy report: "Armed Forces Commercial Center Being Set Up"]

[Text] "In terms of organizational structure the commercial center under the USSR Ministry of Defense will be a holding company operating on the principles of cost recovery and self-financing," Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Gorokhov, USSR Defense Ministry deputy chief of armament, declared in an interview for a TASS correspondent in connection with the upcoming creation of the commercial center.

The general recalled that the realization of military doctrine, the Soviet troop withdrawal from East European countries and Mongolia, and the conversion of military production have raised a number of serious problems with regard to finding additional financial, material, and labor resources. "The resolution of these problems is particularly important in conditions where the country's economy is being switched to the market path of development," Gen. Vyacheslav Gorokhov believes.

In his opinion, great potential for achieving these ends is provided by the movable property and real estate remaining in East European countries and Mongolia after the troops' withdrawal to USSR territory, as well as by the military-technical property and real estate belonging to the Defense Ministry that is being released on the country's territory.

The general substantiated the need to set up the commercial center by referring to the circumstance that the existing state structures and the mechanism for realizing these resources have become ineffective. "The center's creation has become particularly obvious since the all-Union departments which used to engage in this activity—the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the USSR Foreign Ministry, the USSR Ministry of Justice, and the USSR State Planning Committee—have either already ceased to exist or are subject to reorganization," he emphasized.

"The income from all kinds of activity by the center will be channeled into funding socioeconomic programs in the interests of servicemen, into constructing new garrisons for the troops being withdrawn to USSR territory and housing for the servicemen being discharged in connection with the reduction of the Armed Forces, and also into improving techniques for utilizing military-technical property," Lt. Gen. Vyacheslav Gorokhov said in conclusion.

Gorbachev, Shaposhnikov Sign Krisanov Obituary

PM1511110291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 91 First Edition p 3

[Obituary: "Marshal of Aviation Petr Semenovich Kirsanov"]

[Excerpts] Marshal of Aviation Petr Semenovich Kirsanov, a prominent Soviet military leader and participant in the Great Patriotic War, has died in his 73d year.

P.S. Kirsanov was born 1 January 1919 in the village of Lapino, Babyninskiy Rayon, Kaluga Oblast. [passage omitted]

After the war, after graduating from the Air Force Academy and Military Academy of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, P.S. Kirsanov held responsible command and staff posts in the Air Force. He commanded a fighter aviation division and an air army, was deputy commander in chief of the Air Force for combat training, and headed the central inspectorate of flight safety. From 1988 he was a military inspector and counselor of the USSR Defense Ministry's group of general inspectors. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev, Y.I. Shaposhnikov, V.N. Lobov, P.S. Grachev, Yu.P. Maksimov, V.M. Semenov, V.A. Prudnikov, P.S. Deynekin, V.N. Chernavin, V.M. Shuralev, V.M. Arkhipov, V.P. Mironov, N.V. Chekov, B.Ye. Pyankov, Yu.N. Rodionov, Yu.A. Yashin, V.G. Kulikov, N.V. Ogarkov, V.I. Petrov, S.L. Sokolov, B.P. Bugayev, A.I. Koldunov, A.N. Yefimov, A.N. Volkov, G.V. Zimin, A.U. Konstantinov, I.I. Pstygo, A.P. Silantyev, N.M. Skomorokhov, G.P. Skorikov, Ye.A. Rusanov, P.V. Bazanov, and N.A. Tsymbal.

Baltic Affairs

Conflicts 'Flare Up' Over Army Property

PM1511160191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Captain Second Rank V. Gromak report followed by unattributed "Postscript" report: "The Baltics. USSR People's Deputy M. Bocharov: Armed Forces' Property Worth $150 Billion"]

[Text] We have already reported that representatives of the Baltic Military District, Baltic Fleet, and Baltic Border District Officers' Assemblies met with USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] people's deputies in Baltiysk (Kaliningrad Oblast).

The meeting ended with the setting up of a Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies and the adoption of a statement to the effect that all decisions on troop withdrawals from the Baltics and on new stationing locations must be made only subject to agreement with the Coordinating Council, otherwise "we will not leave our garrisons... whatever decisions are made on this." The meeting also demanded that all the Armed Forces' real estate in the Baltics be transferred to the ownership of districts and the fleet.

Observers believe that these decisions were influenced to a considerable extent by the speech made by USSR and RSFSR People's Deputy Mikhail Bocharov. I think that our readers would also be interested in its content.

"Moscow today," Bocharov said, "is far from solving the problems that have reached deadlock here. You can quite easily fall hostage to ill-conceived political decisions."

He went on to add:

"It is criminal to leave in the way that some political circles in Moscow, Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn are planning. Experts value the Armed Forces' real estate and other property in the Baltics at $150 billion. Are we really so rich that we can hand all that over free of charge or sell it for small change?"

We reckon, the people's deputy went on, that the question of the Baltic states' nationalizing the property of the Army, Navy, and defense enterprises should not be raised, especially at the coming talks. At this juncture we have no intention of threatening anyone although I think that some people will try to assess this meeting in precisely that way. There are civilized ways of settling things, and we must rigorously adhere to them. We also think that this meeting's representatives must take part in the coming talks without fail. They themselves must defend their own interests and the interests of the fleet, the Baltic Military District, and last Russia...

Mikhail Aleksandrovich also suggested that military structures' commercial activity in the Baltic region be carried out via Russian entrepreneurial structures, in particular via the "Russo-Balt Vest" concern. The concern will in turn channel up to half its income into meeting the Army's needs and providing social protection for those in the Army and working in the defense industry. The main aim is to retain troop units' combat capability until the troops are withdrawn from the region and to provide social guarantees for servicemen, workers and employees, and veterans.

As of November "Russo-Balt Vest" plans to raise the wages of officers, ensigns, and warrant officers serving in the Baltics by 100-150 rubles. Incidentally, this statement evoked a response from the gathering. There were yells from the floor: "We're being bought" and "What do they want in return?"

Bocharov in turn denied the "demagogic arguments" about the concern's handouts and explained that "Russo-Balt Vest" has opened personal accounts for the families of servicemen and personnel working at Defense Ministry enterprises so as to provide them with a normal standard of living. The concern will construct housing and tackle social issues. The deputy assured the gathering that the concern does not intend to make capital out of misfortune.

Postscript. While this article was being prepared for press, our correspondent in Riga Colonel M. Ziyeminsh reported that real estate belonging to the USSR Armed Forces and to Border and Internal Troops on Latvian territory has been transferred to republic jurisdiction. The Latvian Supreme Council adopted that decision.

Any commercial transactions carried out contrary to Latvian interests are deemed invalid as of 24 August this year. A special delegation of Latvian parliamentarians has been sent to Germany to study their experience with similar property disputes.

How do the local authorities intend to use Army property?

We will provide barracks for our soldiers, I. Bisers, first deputy chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers, said in a press statement. Needless to say, there will be many installations that we will not need. The Council of Ministers, Bisers said, will hand them over to entrepreneurs and self-government bodies.

As we can see, conflict is beginning to flare up over the Armed Forces' property in the Baltic.

'Violation of Rights' of Servicemen Viewed

OW1511222391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2106 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of commissioned officers of the Baltic Military District and of the Baltic Navy expressed concern over "the violation of rights of servicemen, their families and the entire Russian-speaking population in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia." According to First Rank

Captain Valeriy Shorin who attended a press-conference in Moscow on Friday [15 November], "the extremist parliaments of the Baltic countries" are passing laws and decrees which violate the rights of servicemen.

Mr. Shorin is chairman of the Coordinating Council that represents servicemen of the Baltic region, blue-collar and office workers, retired Soviet servicemen and Russian business circles.

He emphasized that the Coordinating Council is trying to "pool the efforts of all groups of the Soviet population and to defend our interests democratically."

The Coordinating Council supports the position of the top Soviet military who believe that the Soviet troop withdrawal from the Baltics cannot begin until the Soviet Army has pulled out of East Europe and Germany, i.e., not earlier than 1994, said Mr. Shorin.

The officers expressed concern over the possibility that the pullout may begin before the prescribed date. They believe that representatives of the Baltic military must participate in all talks regarding this issue, as the pullout affects their interests.

According to Mr. Shorin, an economic programme developed by the Coordinating Council could resolve the problem of an early—and civilized—withdrawal of the Soviet Army from the Baltics.

"We suggest that all facilities belonging to the Soviet Army and Navy be privatised, and the funds be used to build housing for the units to be withdrawn and to retrain the officers for civilian jobs. The Defense Ministry has given permission for the implementation of the programme," he said.

The officers said at the press-conference that the Russobalt concern had been established for the privatisation of the army and navy facilities. The concern will offer social protection to the servicemen and help the military to resolve commercial problems.

Iraq Prepared To Establish Diplomatic Ties

OW1511164891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Viktor Galib [name as received], adviser to the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow, told BF [BALTFAX] that "Iraq is prepared in principle to establish diplomatic relation with the Baltic states, but that will take some time." Mr. Galib pointed out that since the Soviet Union has recognized the Baltics' independence, Iraq's establishment of diplomatic ties with them will not be an interference in the internal affairs of the USSR.

Estonia

USSR Accused of Violating Withdrawal Accords

OW1511222291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2106 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr. Ants Laaneots, acting chief of General Staff of the Estonian Defense Forces, told BALTFAX that "the Soviet Union keeps breaking agreements on the withdrawal of its troops from Estonia's territory." He claims that although one air assault battalion has been removed from Nursi, near the town of Voru, the battalion base is still under guard by the air assault troops and has not been transferred to Estonian authority. "The withdrawal of an air assault battalion from the town of Viljandi has not yet begun even though Estonian Premier Edgar Savisaar had reached a verbal agreement with the Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov that the withdrawal must start on November 3, 1991," said Mr. Laaneots.

The acting chief claimed that another agreement between Mr. Savisaar and Mr. Shaposhnikov, concerning a civil defense regiment which had been stationed in the town of Kohtla-Yahrve, had also been broken. On November 14 the regiment was pulled out of the republic but "took with it all weapons and equipment even though it was a condition of the agreement that all this must be left in Estonia," said Mr. Laaneots.

"All of these are violations of Soviet-Estonian agreements, and the Soviet Union can be regarded as an untrustworthy partner," he added.

Border Control With Russia Established

LD1611034391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Control on the border between Estonia and Russia is being introduced as of today. It has been announced in Tallinn that at the beginning, those arriving in Estonia will only have to show their passports stating the place of residence. Later, in accordance with the laws of Estonia, the stay of USSR citizens will be limited to one month.

Earlier a customs checkout was opened on the border with Russia. Shipment of goods out of Estonia is strictly limited. On their part, the Russian officials have announced ending uncontrolled shipment of goods out of Russia to that Baltic state.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Possible Destabilization

LD1611003191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] According to Vytautas Landsbergis, 1 December is especially significant—it is

Ukraine's day of decision, on which the fate of the future union will depend. The chairman of the Supreme Council stated that, in his opinion, this winter may see efforts to destabilize the situation in the neighboring countries and in Lithuania, as well.

In commenting upon the publication in the past few days by two of Lithuania's newspapers in which claims are set forth that one parliamentary deputy had been a KGB informant, Vytautas Landsbergis observed that this bomb, which has attracted so much public attention, is simultaneously detracting attention from other matters. "The armed underground could become a bomb that is a hundred times more powerful in Lithuania than one deputy's past ties with the Soviet security," noted the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament.

Inter alia, he said he was certain, "if an additional 10 bombs are detonated in Lithuania, this would be done in November."

Vytautas Landsbergis also noted that some sort of explanations or denials must first be received from Deputy Virgilijus Cepaitis, who is accused of KGB connections.

According to the parliament chairman, it has been anticipated early on that similar matters might surface following the takeover of the KGB archives, and it was projected that a parliamentary commission would have to hold conversations with such deputies and present their findings. Vytautas Landsbergis stated that he would like to see what would be done by the collegium and then have a talk with Vigilijus Cepaitis. [passage omitted]

He also noted that recently much is being written about the illegal removal of documents from the KGB building in Vilnius. Thus, in the opinion of the parliament chairman, the Procuracy should also take an interst in how the documents, publicized in the newspapers, have found their way into the editorial offices of these newspapers.

Landsbergis Warns of 'Great Disturbances'

LD1611000791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Lithuanian UN Mission is already preparing the documents required for this presentation of USSR troop withdrawal question before the United Nations. In replying to the question of what sort of concrete assistance can be rendered to Lithuania in this matter by the world and particularly, by the West, Vytautas Landsbergis noted that, along with political support, there could also be economic pressure exerted on the Soviet Union. On the one hand, they could withdraw their support if the occupation army continues its stay, while on the other hand, they could increase their support if it leaves, by extending additional funds toward the social upkeep needs of officers. After all, the Soviet Army, in turn, was withdrawn from Austria, only after insistent demands by the large states.

Many questions were directed to the chairman of the Supreme Council in connection with the so-called KGB agent "Joseph" case. As is already known, Virgilijus Cepaitis, chairman of the Citizens' Rights and Nationalities' Affairs Commission of the Supreme Council, is implicated in this case.

Vytautas Landsbergis replied that there exists a parliamentary commission for investigation of KGB activity, and there also is a Commission for Mandates and Ethics. They will initially have to clarify all the facts and circumstances. That is how the principle of the resolution of innocence can be maintained. After all, the press contained some information regarding some other deputies as KGB agents. Finally, a document is required, perhaps even a law, regulating the recall or resignation of deputies. "Moreover, should the accusations incriminating Virgilijus Cepaitis prove to be founded, he will have to tender his resignation," observed the chairman of the Supreme Council.

He denied the assumption that a parliamentary crisis could be created by one or two deputies' connections to the KGB.

Vytautas Landsbergis noted that the Supreme Council has its internal problems and [words indistinct] there exist those who are interested in dividing the parliament; here the people can come and they would not be accused, especially because the situation is not so simple. "A great danger," observed Vytautas Landsbergis, "is presented by the facts of the armed terrorist underground that is being established. That, in his opinion, "is connected with the very unstable situation in the large neighboring country. Most probably, attempts will be made to transfer the instability also to the Baltic countries."

The Supreme Council chairman emphasized the fact that great disturbances are possible in the Soviet Union at the end of November and the beginning of December. First of all, they will be related to the Ukraine's decision, upon which will both the Soviet Union's and Mikhail Gorbachev's fate will depend. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Holds News Conference 15 Nov

OW1511175791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1623 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council Landsbergis said at a November 15 press conference in Vilnius following his visit to the USA that he had urged the West during his visit to take active efforts to make the USSR withdraw from the Baltics.

Asked to comment on reports that had appeared in the Lithuanian press concerning Lithuanian parliamentarian Cepaitis' alleged contacts with the KGB, Mr. Landsbergis said that "it is Cepaitis himself who must be the first to respond" (to the allegations).

"I would like to know more about the accusations, to talk with Mr. Cepaitis himself, and only then will I be able to speak my mind," said Mr. Landsbergis.

Commenting on Mr. Cepaitis' possible resignation, Mr. Landsbergis said that the parliamentarian would probably have to resign. He also said that "a mechanism is needed or even a law because this case may not be unique, and there may be other (cases of this sort) in the future."

Government Seeks Dissolution of KGB

OW1511175591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1623 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Lithuanian governmental ruling bans former Lithuanian KGB staffers from entering the Vilnius building that belonged to the KGB.

The teams that are investigating KGB work in Lithuania were instructed to submit to the Lithuanian Government all documents concerning KGB property and archives. All the documents that are currently kept in the former KGB building in Vilnius will be transferred for storage at a special facility.

Mr. Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian land-protection minister, is responsible for the implementation of the ruling.

On December 1, 1991, the former KGB building will be transferred under the authority of the Lithuanian Justice Ministry.

Ex-KGB Officers Banned From Vilnius Office

LD1611001391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2230 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The Lithuanian prime minister, Gediminas Vagnorius, issued an order banning the former KGB officers to enter the Soviet Secret Service Headquarters in Vilnius. The building itself is guarded by several parliamentary and governmental institutions and lack of coordination between these institutions allowed this unpleasant incident to occur in the former KGB Headquarters. Governmental commissions and working groups who are liquidating the KGB have been ordered to hand over to the government all inventory lists that will be kept in a special depository for security purposes. The national defense minister, Audrius Butkevicius, is personally responsible for enforcing this order. The documents can be inspsected by authorized persons only.

Vagnorius: Former KGB Agents Still Around

OW1511164791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Lithuanian radio November 14th, Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius expressed doubts over the republican press reports on Cepaitis' connections with the KGB. "Even if it is true, one must be naive enough not to understand that the press is given compromising materials only on people little involved in the KGB activities", the premier said.

Mr. Vagnorius argued that the KGB had withdrawn its most important files back to Moscow leaving in the republic only insignificant and dubious reports of its agents.

Mr. Vagnorius also said that "there is a lot of former KGB agents in all organizations of Lithuania" and that he sees great danger "in attempts of major KGB agents to find jobs in republican state structures".

Mr. Vagnorius stated that if the Soviet secret services try to revive their activities in the republic, Lithuania "will do all it can to prevent that".

Commission Urges KGB To Admit Involvement

OW1511165391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 14th the Lithuanian parliamentary commission investigation the KGB activities in Lithuania issued an address to citizens and residents of Lithuania urging former KGB agents and its free-lance employees to acknowledge "voluntarily and openheartedly" their involvement by January 1, 1991.

The address also says currently a draft law related to KGB collaborators is being prepared.

Parliament Issues Statement on KGB

OW1511165991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 15th the center action of the Lithuanian parliament issued a statement saying that the KGB has managed to inculcate its agents in all state structures at different levels.

However, members of the faction believe this fact should cast a shadow neither on voters who elected deputies connected with the KGB, nor on their factions and the parliament as a whole.

Parliament Member Acknowledges KGB Past

OW1511131991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1044 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 15th the Lithuanian newspaper "LIJETUVOS RITAS" reported that speaking at a meeting of the commission investigating KGB's activities in the republic Thursday [14 November], Virgilius Cepaitis, head of the Lithuanian Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, acknowledged that he had worked for the KGB.

However, at a news briefing in Vilnius November 15th Audrius Ajubalis, press-secretary of the Lithuanian parliament, denied the report.

Mr. Aiubalis also told reporters that Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis had left Warsaw for Vilnius. Upon return, he is expected to give a news conference on the results of his visit to the USA.

Vagnorius Holds News Conference on U.S. Trip

PM1811104791 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 6 Nov 91 p 2

[By V. Kikilas: "Foreign and Domestic Affairs. G. Vagnorius' News Conference"]

[Text] As the media have already reported, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has held a news conference. It was devoted to the results of the Lithuanian delegation's trip to the United States. The aim of the visit, G. Vagnorius stressed, was to sign a treaty on guarantees for foreign investments that would increase interest among U.S. businessmen and bankers in investing capital in the development of industry and other sectors of the republic's economy.

It is important to note, the prime minister said, that U.S. businessmen are showing a lot of interest in Lithuania and a readiness to cooperate with us on a businesslike and mutually advantageous basis in practically all spheres of activity. For example, around 1,000 representatives of business circles gathered for a meeting with the Lithuanian delegation in Illinois. They asked a lot of questions about how they could best help Lithuania more quickly, but at the same time about how they could be sure that their investments would be secure. We gave them assurances about this, G. Vagnorius said, and the treaty that was concluded is evidence of this. We should expect it to play a positive role in the development of relations between Lithuania and the United States.

Delegation members had useful discussions with IMF representatives. It was stressed at these meetings that no special conditions will be imposed on the Baltic republics, including Lithuania, during admission to the Monetary Fund. And it was clear from meetings with representatives of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Commerce Department that Lithuania will be given most-favored-nation status. At the same time the U.S. side put forward a demand that there be no restrictions on emigration policy in Lithuania.

The United States is prepared even now to give material and technical aid to Lithuania in order to develop its economy, G. Vagnorius noted. Thus an agreement was reached with the State Department that in the near future the United States will supply our republic with 100,000 tonnes of feed grain for livestock.

Questions relating to the withdrawal of USSR Army units from Lithuania were also raised during discussions with U.S. official representatives. The U.S. side gave assurances that it would do everything it could and act in a businesslike manner to encourage an urgent solution to this complex issue.

Answers were given at the news conference to many other questions put by journalists on topical problems like introducing market relations, accelerating the privatization process, stabilizing prices, developing agricultural production, introducing a separate currency, and so on. In particular it was noted that labor productivity in Lithuanian agriculture is now almost 4.5 times lower than in industry, and it is doubtful whether output from the countryside can become a chief export item in the near future; it was noted that only land reform will create better conditions for the development of the countryside.

On the issue of introducing a separate currency, the prime minister expressed the opinion that we should not rush into this before signing an appropriate treaty with the USSR.

Supreme Council Addressed by Vagnorius

LD1511141191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The fourth session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council continued its work today in Vilnius. A speech was made by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. Speaking of the liberalization of prices and economic relations with the Soviet Union, the prime minister noted that rumors about the litas disturbed not only our society but also our partners in the Soviet Union. Therefore, Gediminas Vagnorius said, we must inform society clearly and in good time and not create conditions for doubt. The liberalization of prices of industrial goods will start 19 November. Preperations have been made to ensure that there is no shortage of such goods in the shops.

The most important problems of agricultural reform and privatization were discussed.

The prime minister submitted the candidature of the minister of internal affairs. He proposed Petras Valiukas, chief commissar of Kaunas Police, for this post. This candidature will be discussed by Supreme Council bodies.

The prime minister also proposed a discussion on the resignation of the minister without portfolio, Aleksandras Abisala. This issue was postponed until the next sitting.

The Supreme Council passed a resolution on the decision of the delegations of the supreme councils of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, and the

Republic of Estonia to form the Baltic Assembly. The council confirmed the delegation to this assembly and instructed it to appoint its members to the assembly's committees and presidium.

Government Issues Statement on Foreign Debt

LD1711175591 Moscow TASS in English
1638 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Vilnius November 17 TASS—"The Lithuanian Government guarantees the payoff of credits received by the republic's economic subjects," said Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. His statement was released here in the run-up to a meeting between representatives of the Group of Seven industrialised nations and the Union of Sovereign States.

The statement points out the Lithuanian Government treats with understanding the USSR's foreign debt problem. It is prepared to discuss it along with other problems both with Western countries, primarily with the G-7 nations, and the Union of Sovereign States which is the legal successor to the USSR.

LDPL Leader's Daughter Beaten, Robbed

OW1511165891 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1446 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On November 13 night three unidentified men severely beat the daughter of Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labor [LDPL] (former independent Lithuanian Communist Party), Audrone Usoniene and robbed her bag with documents and 900 rubles. The unconscious woman was taken to a hospital.

As Victor Zlatkov, commissar of the Vilnius 5th police office, told the newspaper "Respublika", this seems to be an ordinary robbery.

At the same time, Mr. Brazauskas suggests that the assault on his daughter as "a political action". He said that on November 12 his son-in-law noticed several suspicious-looking men near the couple's house. However, witnesses to the assault say the attackers (one was beating the woman while two others ran away with her bag) looked like drunkards rather than hit men.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Resolves To Adopt Law on Elections

PM1811122191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

["Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Reexamination of the RSFSR Law 'On Elections of Heads of Administration'"; resolution dated 24 October 1991]

[Text] Having reexamined the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Law "On Elections of Heads of Administration," which was returned by the RSFSR president, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

To adopt the RSFSR Law "On Elections of Heads of Administration."

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet
Moscow, RSFSR House of the Soviets
24 October 1991

To Implement Budget Law

PM1811120391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet resolution: "On the Procedure for Implementing the RSFSR Law 'On the Foundations of Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR'"]

[Text] The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To implement the RSFSR law "On the Foundations of Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR" as soon as it is published.

2. To establish the following procedure for elaborating the budget system in the RSFSR:

for 1993—with a 12-month cycle starting 1 January 1992;

for 1994—with a 15-month cycle starting 1 September 1992;

for 1995—in full accordance with the adopted law.

3. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers shall bring existing normative acts into line with this law.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet
Moscow, RSFSR House of Soviets
10 October 1991

Discusses Taxation Bills

PM1811110991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary observer Aleksandr Linkov report: "Fourth Session of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet. Treasury Empty, Taxes Needed. Our Parliamentary Observer Aleksandr Linkov Reports from White House"]

[Text] Members of the soviet of the republic devoted their entire working day yesterday to examining the first reading of a package of draft laws on taxation. The need to adopt these laws is conditioned by the changes taking place in our life and the transition to market relations in the economy. The current state of the republic's budget is a factor of some importance too. The budget is coming apart at every seam. Moreover, spending continues to increase, threatening to crush the entire state system.

Addressing the members of the chamber, Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, noted that the tax burden proposed in the submitted drafts is extremely heavy but that there is currently no other choice. There are simply no other reserves available for replenishing the state treasury, but these reserves may be found during the examination of next year's budget and the tax pressure could thereby be eased.

Following adoption on first reading the draft laws will be sent back for finalization in order to be debated and finally ratified in the very near future.

Highlights of Proceedings From 15 Nov Session

LD1611005691

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1940 GMT on 15 November broadcast a scheduled program of recorded highlights from the 15 November session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet at the Russian White House in Moscow. RSFSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan I. Khasbulatov chaired the meeting.

At 1940 a member of the committee for industry presented a red, white, and blue flag made by a company especially for the sitting. The draft law on RSFSR citizenship was passed at its first reading. A draft law on transferring USSR Procuracy property to the RSFSR Procuracy was also passed.

At 1942 Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin took the floor. He asked for the question of the resignation of the old government to be voted on, and it was approved. Yeltsin read a report on the new government, stressing that competence and professionalism are the conditions for the new government along with a single team spirit and a compact, manageable structure. The number of ministries has been cut, he said, and the government will be open to public scrutiny. The State Council has been abrogated. Yeltsin read a list of new government appointments, which includes

Burbulis as first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. Then he read a list of appointments to the presidential structures.

At 1950 Yeltsin turned to the first matters dealt with by the new government. They include servicing the union's foreign debt, settling the questions of property rights, implementing foreign economic activity, and appropriating diamonds and gold on Russian territory.

At 1956 Khasbulatov invited deputies to direct questions to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. Utkin complained that the committee on employment and the one on Chernobyl have been eliminated. Yeltsin said that they are now directorates. (Nanosov) pointed out two contradictions in Yeltsin's report, one of which Yeltsin attributed to a misprint.

At 1959 a deputy noted that he is glad to see diamonds and gold in Russian hands but asked why the Ministry of Geology has been eliminated. Yeltsin said that the former USSR ministry has become a Russian one. In answer to another question, Yeltsin said that they are going down a very dangerous path and there can be no guarantee that life will become happier under the new government. Prices will be liberalized, and the minimum wage will be increased. Kuznetsov asked how relations will work out with the union government and the Moscow town hall, and Yeltsin said he anticipates no problems.

At 2004 Yegor Gaydar took the floor to speak in more detail on the decisions made at the government session today. Prices for oil, petroleum products, coal, transport, basic services, communications, precious metals, bread, matches, and butter will not be deregulated, he said.

At 2007 Gaydar noted that a decree to open up the foreign market has been studied. Administrative obstacles to the competition of trade enterprises will be removed. He called for an end to export licenses for oil, without which there will be no fuel for the Russian winter, he said.

At 2011 Gaydar said minimal gold reserves are necessary for freedom of movement. On servicing the Soviet national debt, he said Russia is prepared to bear full responsibility, as yesterday the Ukraine rejected any responsibility for repayment of credits, but Russia will not be responsible for credit deals struck without its participation, he said.

Filipov said at 2013 that the previous government sabotaged the law on privatization. Gaydar replied that the present government is ready to put forward documents in the near future on a privatization program. A privatization account system will be expensive and will demand an increase in the capacity of the savings banks, so a simpler method will be developed, he said.

At 2016 Gaydar gave a sketch of his autobiography in response to a question from a deputy.

Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis said at 2023 that changes to laws will be needed to ensure economic reform. The intention is to change not just the name but the essence of the government. The old approach of setting up special commissions and committees to deal with questions was correct when ministries were secondary bodies of reform. This must be radically changed.

At 2030 a deputy complained about the lot of medical workers. The speaker said that the emphasis of power must shift to the ministries, and this falls in their purview. In response to another question from the floor, he said that a liberalization of the foreign market is necessary for economic reform.

Shokhin took the floor at 2037 and commented on the decrees discussed by the government this morning. He mentioned the problems associated with raising the wages of employees in the education sector, increasing the minimum wage, and responding to the demands of trade unions and employers.

At 2044 Zakharov asked Shokhin how liberalized prices would affect the people's standard of living. Shokhin replied that the minimum wage must keep up with the cost of living.

At 2048 Khasbulatov ended the question and answer session and called for the Supreme Soviet to cooperate with the government and for the deputies to wish the new government members success. Shakhray then said that the chairman of committee on legislation has been voted on by the committee.

Yeltsin Addresses Parliament

LD1611000291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1940 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Speech by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin at the 15 November session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet in the "White House" in Moscow—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies: Since the congress a new government has been formed. What were the main principles laid down in its formation? The first is professionalism, competence. The second is taking account, unfortunately, of the sorry lessons of the previous government, ensuring that it is one team acting in unison, ensuring that there are no squabbles or internal shocks, and ensuring that this does not have a bad effect on affairs. That must be a truly united team.

The third is the compact structure of the government and the manageability of its elements. I can say, on the whole, that the number of ministries has been cut from 46 to 23. Moreover, we have taken upon ourselves practically everything; we have taken upon ourselves the whole union economy. The fourth is coordinated activity with the Supreme Soviet and the territorial bodies. The fifth is openness to the population and active dialogue with the trade unions and political organizations.

Proceeding from this, to date, I would like to say that the State Council has been abolished—proceeding from criticism, including at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Here is the list of ministries, or of the leadership and ministries and also of their leaders: Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the government; there are two deputy chairmen—Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, who heads the whole economic bloc or the so-called Reform Bloc, and Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, who heads the social sphere; Andrey Fedorovich Dunayev, minister of internal affairs; Viktor Ivanovich Danilov-Danilyan, minister of ecology and nature use; Andrey Ivanovich Vorobyev, minister of health; Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs; the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is no longer separate—as a committee it has been incorporated into the Foreign Ministry; the minister, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Ministry of Culture—the minister has not yet been appointed; Boris Georgeyvich Saltykov, minister of science and technical policies; it has been decided not to form the Defense Ministry yet, the Committee for Defense issues remains—its leader is Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev; Eduard Dmitriyevich Dneprov, minister of education; Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin, minister of the press and the mass media; Aleksandr Alekseyevich Kipkin, minister of industry; Vladimir Borisovich Bulgak, minister of communications; Viktor Nikolayevich Khylistun, minister of agriculture and foodstuffs; Ella Aleksandrovna Panfilova, minister of social protection of the population; Vladimir Mikhaylovich Lapukhin, minister of fuel and power engineering; Stanislav Khateyevich Anisimov, minister of trade and material resources; Vitaliy Borisovich Yefimov, minister of transport; Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, minister of labor and employment of the population; Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, minister of the economy and finances; Nikolay Vasiliyevich Fedorov, minister of justice.

The following have not yet been appointed, but have been approved: Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures, minister of the RSFSR; the chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, minister of the RSFSR; State Committee for the Socioeconomic Development of the North, minister of the RSFSR; the State Committee for the Management of State Property, minister of the RSFSR, Anatoliy Borisovich Chubayis; chairman of the State Committee for State Security of the RSFSR, Viktor Valentinovich Ivanenko.

In addition, beyond the government, within the presidential structure and subordinated directly to Vice President Rutskoy there are the Committee to Protect Economic Interests, the State Customs Committee, the State Taxation Inspectorate, the State Insurance Supervisory Body, the State Committee on Standards and Metrology, the Committee on Conversion Matters, the State Committee on Health and Epidemiological Supervision, Safety in Industry, and Mining and Radiation Safety, the Directorate on Eliminating the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe and Chelyabinsk Oblast, the Commission on Humanitarian and Technical Assistance, and the Main Staff of the National Guard.

The first meeting of the government took place today. It considered the main issues of economic reform, a whole package of government resolutions, draft presidential decrees, and the social issues connected with them. I will enumerate this since it is of great importance. First, we approved in principle the position of the government on the main provisions of the agreements to the treaty on an economic treaty [as heard], including on redeeming and servicing the union's foreign debt, the creation of a banking union and the introduction of national currencies, and the regulation of property rights, prices, and deliveries.

All the government members taking part in various negotiations on these agreements will use this document to guide them. Having been agreed on by everyone, the treaty and eight draft agreements will be submitted for ratification to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in the very near future. Today, a government decision on the procedure for the introduction of a minimum wage was adopted; a presidential decree on a preemptive increase in wages of the staff of budget organizations and establishments not only in people's education and health but also in other organizations; a presidential decree on the procedure for the introduction of a minimum wage in the Russian Federation; a presidential decree on the abolition of restrictions on wages and in the growth of resources channeled into consumption; a presidential decree on social partnership and arbitration in labor disputes or conflicts; a presidential decree on the liberalization of foreign economic activity on the RSFSR's territory; a government decision on the registration of enterprises with foreign investments; a presidential decree on the organization of the work in the precious metals and diamonds industry on RSFSR territory—according to this decision, the RSFSR is taking over control of everything to do with gold and diamonds; a government decision on measures for the financial provision of economic reform and for protection of the RSFSR's financial system; a government decision on the organization of work in connection with the ministries and other organs of state administration of the USSR being disbanded; a presidential decree on the financial and credit provision of economic reform and the reorganization of the RSFSR's banking system; and an appropriate decree on the reorganization of organs of state administration—I have already mapped it out to you so I will not be going back to this question; a government resolution on putting the retail trade, public catering, and the domestic services sector on a commercial footing; a presidential decree on regulation of deliveries of petroleum and petroleum products outside the boundaries of the Russian Federation. That is what we have done so far in organizational terms.

[Indistinct interjection from auditorium]

[Khasbulatov] Just a minute. Please finish, Boris Nikolayevich, then we will take questions.

[Yeltsin] Where can they be read? Well, they will all be published, or if you like we can introduce some other system. What I am proposing is that—the tasks of our society, the Supreme Soviet, the government, and the president—I am proposing this so that we might be able to set aside a part of it in an organized way, although work is being conducted in a rather well coordinated way with committees and with people's deputies and with the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, both on structural matters and on candidatures. Perhaps we should be even more systematic in creating something in the way of—what shall I call it—a staff, or does that sound too much like the army—in any case a group consisting of Supreme Soviet people's deputies (Shumeyko) and Ispravnikov, of Gaydar representing the government and Shakhray representing the president—a group which, when decrees or government bills are being drafted, would, as it were, jointly keep an eye on this work and play a part in it.

Answers Deputies' Questions

LD1611133291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1940 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Question and answer session with President Boris Yeltsin at the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet session in Moscow 15 November—recorded]

[Text] [Utkin] Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] People's Deputy Utkin, of the Commission on Social Policy. Boris Nikolayevich, at one time, when you were chairman of the Supreme Soviet, you signed a law on a state committee for eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, and you were prevented at another time from signing a law on a committee on employment only because you were visiting Czechoslovakia. Tell us please, what harm would be done to economic reform by these two committees which have disappeared in the new structure?

[Yeltsin] What do you mean, they have disappeared? They do exist.

[Utkin] No, the State Committee on Employment has been abolished. The Ministry of Labor and Employment has been created from it and the Ministry of Labor. I do not see the point of this. The State Committee on Chernobyl does not exist either. Some other kind of committee has been set up, but it is not a state service.

[Yeltsin] On the contrary, that committee has become a part of the presidential rather than the government structure, subordinated to the president through the vice president, so it is the president who is responsible for those matters, the committee for Chernobyl matters and for things to do with Chelyabinsk Oblast—radiation, etc. So there is such a committee.

[Khasbulatov] A directorate.

[Yeltsin] A directorate.

[Khasbulatov] No. 2 microphone, please.

[(Nenashev)] People's deputy (Nenashev), deputy chairman of the Committee on Science and Education. There are inconsistencies in the two documents that I have noticed, Boris Nikolayevich. Concerning the structure of the government, Appendix No. 1 to the presidential decree of 6 November, says RSFSR minister of Science, Higher Education, and Technical Policy, while your speech stated minister of Science and Technical Policy, which is how it is referred to in the order defining the supervisory responsibilities of the deputy chairmen of the government. There is an inconsistency here.

The second inconsistency concerns the RSFSR minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, whereas the order says RSFSR Ministry of Geology and Utilization of Natural Resources. I would ask you to clarify this.

[Yeltsin] Let me clarify it then. First, regarding to the second matter, this is simply a printing error. It should be ecology and not geology, and this is specified in the second document. Regarding education, science, and higher education, higher education is no longer the responsibility of the committee and the ministry. Now there is a special state counselor for higher education.

[Isayev] Deputy Isayev from Saratov. Boris Nikolayevich, it was very pleasing to hear just now that at last all the gold, diamonds and so on will remain in Russia, but I see that within the government structure the Ministry of Geology, which was engaged in prospecting for gold, diamonds, oil, and gas throughout Russia's vast territory, has disappeared. Could you say a few words about the reasons for this?

[Yeltsin] We shall now have to do some reorganizing or make some additions in connection with the fact that there has been this collapse of 60-80 Union ministries—which indeed is in line with our active work over the past 18 months, one has to say. This includes reorganization in respect of gold and diamonds, but in today's presidential decree, which has been adopted, there is mention of the state depository [Gokhran], which was a Union body but is becoming a Russian one since it has been abolished as a Union one.

[Skudnov] Deputy Skudnov, Constituency No. 349, Nizhniy Novgorod. Boris Nikolayevich, the old government has departed without reporting on what it has done over the preceding period, over the past year. Today a new government is being proposed. My first question is where is the guarantee that once again, in a year, we shall not be announcing that a new government has been appointed, and how at the present time are we to explain this to the electorate.

Second, during our meeting of the Industrial Union at your residence in the Kremlin, a draft decree on developing industry was presented to the Industrial Union which we discussed and which you approved verbally.

To date, this decree has still not appeared, and when the decrees were read—perhaps I did not hear everything perfectly—no mention was made of it.

[Yeltsin] First, it is not absolutely necessary that this decree be discussed at a session of the government; unfortunately there is no way that you can coordinate with several of the services there, and this needs to be coordinated. I will definitely be signing this decree.

Regarding guarantees, then what can I say? We are all together in one team, and we are now going along a very narrow path on the edge of an abyss. One foot has already slipped. We need to make our way along this path as quickly as possible by means of radical reforms. We are constantly working in a high-risk zone, but the team which has been confirmed and which has started work today in the government, and partly in the presidential structures, is ready to move in this direction with you.

As for guaranteeing that in six months our life will be significantly better, I cannot do this. I can only say what I have already said at the Congress of People's Deputies, that we consider that by introducing free prices and liberalizing prices things will deteriorate. Our task is to at least protect two-thirds of the minimum consumer basket so we are increasing the minimum wage and pensions. This could go on for six months, perhaps seven months depending on what the situation dictates, and nevertheless, after this, there should be a certain stabilization by fall.

[Kuznetsov] Deputy Kuznetsov, 27th district. Boris Nikolayevich, we now have, I do not know, three—although there is no Union government—well, if not three, then two governments in Moscow—the Russian and the Moscow government. The mayor's office is a non-constitutional body. In essence, an experiment is being carried out on the people of Moscow. Do you foresee any difficulties in the mutual relations between the Russian Government, and forgive me if I allow myself to call it the self-proclaimed government of Moscow?

[Yeltsin] To date, we have worked with the leadership of the government of Moscow and its mayor with a fair degree of mutual understanding. I think that this should continue in the future, or perhaps it will be even better.

Gaydar Comments on Oil Exports, Russian Debt

LD1511233191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1940 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Speech by Yegor Timururovich Gaydar, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Government deputy chairman for economic policy, at the 15 November session of the Supreme Soviet in the "White House" in Moscow—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed people's deputies: I, Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, have just been appointed deputy head of the government for economic policy. [passage omitted]

I will proceed to describe a collection of specific measures to ensure Russian economic sovereignty. The first problem, the most acute problem with which we have been confronted, is associated with the following. The compilation of a list of licenses for the export of oil and petroleum products issued over the past two months by the Union government and by the RSFSR authorities has demonstrated that up to today licenses have been issued for the export of 150 million tonnes of oil and petroleum products. This constitutes approximately a third of Russian oil production. If we do not stop this immediately, we will have absolutely nothing to burn this winter. The whole national economy will come to a halt. In the corresponding documents...[changes thought] There are a colossal number of violations in this sphere. An endless number of licenses has been issued without quotas. Corresponding evidence has been handed over to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We have adopted a decision on the suspension and urgent review of all licenses issued for the export of oil and petroleum products in order to preserve only that which is truly vital to the interests of Russia.

The next question, the question of gold and precious metals. Now, when we are indeed beginning very radical, abrupt transformations, in conditions of an extremely acute shortage of hard currency, we will need to have the operational capacity to maneuver, and the operational capacity to maneuver means primarily minimal gold resources. On this account, an advance purchase of output for production and industrial purposes for the first quarter of the next year took place on the sale of gold. So now we have acquired this freedom to maneuver. This does not mean that we will use it in all kinds of ways, but at least we should an emission. [sentence as heard]

The next thing: We have studied the question of negotiations associated with the indebtedness of the Soviet Union and the credits that the Soviet Union has been granted and is being granted. You know that until recently the Soviet Union took major credits. Our basic standpoint on the sharing of indebtedness was that we are ready, in solidarity, to take on the whole responsibility for the Soviet debt. Yesterday it transpired that the Ukraine has categorically refused to accept the principle of collective [solidarnoy] responsibility. At the government session, we adopted a decision concerning this situation. The Russian leadership, the Russian Government should make the following announcement: that we respect the debt obligations of the Soviet Union and are ready to bear responsibility for them, but considering that Russia is the dominating source for the repayment of these credits, and, for the first nine months, the Russian trade balance has been $10 billion in the black, while in other republics it has been $6 billion in the red, Russia considers it necessary to inform its creditors that beginning 15 November, Russia does not bear any responsibility for any credit agreements whatsoever that are concluded without its participation.

These are the basic questions that were discussed today at the government session. We will inform you in detail about our work and hope for the organization of effective, working, interaction.

Burbulis on New Russian Government's Duties

OW1611032391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first deputy head of the Russian Government Gennadiy Burbulis has stated that the new government will differ from the former one not only in name and personnel, but in "the essense of its activities." He spoke on Friday [15 November] at a meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Burbulis promised parliament not to misuse the right to issue normative acts. He said that the the Cabinet of Ministers is presently busy in particular with "taking an inventory of decisions which were made by the old Council of Ministers in the past three months."

In Burbulis' words, the Russian Government has outlined a system of immediate measures connected to the "powerful safeguards of reform." He stated that the Russian Government "intends to promote treaties among the republics of the former USSR only insofar as Russia's interests are not hurt."

Mr. Burbulis also said that a meeting of experts is planned for the beginning of next week. Representatives of the executive powers of the Moscow, Leningrad, Yekaterininburg, Krasnoyarsk, and Omsk regions and other regions conducting reforms to decide the food problem will all take part in the meeting. Burbulis stated that this meeting should decide the cooperative measures to stabilize the food problem in the regions and also to devise a form of state control over the activities of the executive powers in the regions. This would effect the decisions to hike the price of bread, which were passed by the Moscow government.

Russia Takes Over USSR Procurator's Office

LD1511185191 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—A decision to form a single prosecutory system in Russia and to transfer to it all the property of the USSR Procurator's Office on the territory of the republic was adopted today by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The speakers motivated the need for such a decision by the USSR Procurator Office's direct interference in the settlement of legal matters, regulated by Russian laws, and by the extremely unsatisfactory financial standing of the Russian Procurator's Office personnel.

"USSR Procurator-General Nikolay Trubin has acknowledged his impotence and resigned," Russian Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov told parliament. He noted that the financing of the USSR Procurator's Office was discontinued from November 1st and "its property is now being pilfered by cooperatives. The USSR Procurator's Office has no means to sustain its establishments."

The Russian Supreme Soviet's decision to set up a single prosecutory system in the Russian Federation fixes the total number of its personnel at 39.5 thousand men.

Parliament To Control Printing Currency

OW1611005291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament decided to take control over the printing of money and to analyze the potential damage the USSR Finance Ministry's request for a 30 bn. [billion] Rbs [rubles] loan might have done, if it had been granted. It also resolved to establish a parliamentary counting commission in the near future. The decision was taken after the parliament had heard a report by Aleksandr Orlov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's control chamber, on the issue of the 30 bn. Rbs. short-term credit requested by the Union bodies. Mr. Orlov reported the control chamber's discovery that during recent months a 93 bn. Rbs. credit had already been illegally taken out and spent. There is good reason to believe that an even bigger share of the country's platinum stock has been sold abroad than of the gold stock.

However, according to Mr. Orlov, authorities at the State Bank and the USSR Finance Ministry banned the inspection of the Defense Ministry's foreign-exchange account and of its other accounts after the control chamber had ferreted out two secret accounts keeping a total of more than 51 bn. Rbs. Russia's procurator general has permitted further inspection of the accounts and the interrogation of Mr. Pavlov and Mr. Lukyanov who are in detention after the failed August coup.

Auditor on Gorbachev Denying Knowledge of Money

LD1511233291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Aleksandr Orlov, chairman of the country's auditing chamber, revealed at the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet today that in a conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev, he denied that he knew anything about two mysterious credit accounts in the Gosbank which a commission of the chamber discovered hold an unnamed 51.4 billion rubles. Orlov underlined that Anatoliy Lukyanov should know about these sums of money, but he is, at present, in prison. He also expressed his conviction that one should not work with documents of the USSR Ministry of Finance, but only with accounts. He assumed that other analogous accounts exist, but the chamber commission is not permitted to work any more at the Ministry of Finance and Gosbank. Orlov stated that the USSR finance minister and the USSR premier could have used these accounts. Only one person knows the answer to all these questions: Viktor Geraschenko, head of the USSR Gosbank, but he will never tell anything, parliamentary head Ruslan Khasbulatov said. As a result of this, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision which, in particular, points out the necessity of carrying out an analysis of the harmful results of the credit dealings on the state of finances in the republic.

Chechen-Ingush Situation

Defense Council Orders Units to Barracks

OW1611073291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two decrees signed by the Chechen President General Dzhakhar Dudayev have been issued by the republic's Defence Council in Groznyy, November 15. The first bans exporting food, building materials, machinery, equipment, transport vehicles, and military hardware from the republic by any transport means. The order will stand till lifting the blockade introduced by the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, meaning the decision by Russia's parliament to install check-points on the border to prevent a spread of arms.

The second decree "On Measures for Law and Order in Groznyy and Rural Districts" orders to the barracks the armed units newly set up in the republic. The local councils are to see to dismantling barricades and cleaning the streets of Groznyy. The Chechen interior and defence ministers are to organize round-the-clock patrols by the National Guard. All the citizens possessing firearms without licences are to register them within three days or risk criminal responsibility. Unsanctioned checks of enterprises and warehouses or detention of people by unauthorized persons are forbidden.

Military 'State of Alert' Continues in Groznyy

LD1511233991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Nov 91

[From the "TV Inform" Newscast]

[Text] For the third consecutive day there have been no meetings in Groznyy. The central squares and the streets surrounding them are empty. Life seems to be getting back to normal, but we are still a long way from real calm. The military state of alert has not been lifted. Soldiers of the National Guard can frequently be seen on the streets.

Over the last few days, several terrorist acts have been carried out in the republic. Even now, the fate of Viktor Kamkalik, the rector of the Chechen-Ingush State University, remains uncertain. He was kidnapped three days ago. When this happened, the pro-rector of the university Abdul Hamid was fatally injured trying to stop the criminals. An investigation is being carried out.

There are injured men to be found among the fighters of the National Guard too. Several days ago, an attempt was made on the life of Ruslan Shamayev, the commander of the guards. He was shot at point-blank range right through his chest. The procurator's office is investigating the murder of the KGB officer, Tolstenov.

Criminals are taking advantage of the unstable situation. Over these three days, in Groznyy alone more than 20 cars have been stolen. Rumors have been circulating that men from a number of departments of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs have announced a strike, but these rumors have not been confirmed.

Khasbulatov Appeals To Ensure 'Normal Life'

LD1511225791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2012 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, has appealed to the peoples of Checheno-Ingushetia to show prudence, wisdom, restraint, and calm; to do everything possible to prevent an interethnic split; and to ensure normal life for all elderly and children and all their fellow countrymen.

In the appeal, which was disseminated here by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet press center, Khasbulatov, who himself comes from Checheno-Ingushetia, stresses in particular that the Russian parliament and president "are making attempts to regulate the conflict which has arisen using political means and methods." "We need to sit down at the negotiating table, overcome the lack of mutual understanding, and find common points in order to resolve fundamental questions in the life of Checheno-Ingushetia," Khasbulatov notes. "This pressing problem, threatening to turn into a genuine human catastrophe, cannot be put off." He expressed confidence that "a sovereign Chechen-Ingush Republic within the makeup of Russia, alongside the other peoples of the Northern Caucasus, will enter the new union of states created in the country on the basis of confederation as an equal partner."

Dudayev Discusses Current Issues in Republic

PM1711204191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Nov 91 p 1

[Interview with General Dzhakhar Dudayev by correspondent Zh. Kasyanenko datelined Rostov-on-Don on

15 November; "Dzhakhar Dudayev: I Wish To Issue a Warning"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—While making arrangements for this interview with General Dzhakhar Dudayev, I promised that I would convey his words to readers with utmost accuracy and that my questions would not contain any hidden snares, ambiguities, or commentaries and character assessments. If you give your word, you must keep it. I hope that our readers will draw their own correct conclusion from everything that has been said.

[Kasyanenko] Dzhakhar Musayevich, my first question will be about the fate of Russians in Chechenia. At present many people are perturbed about this, especially the inhabitants of Rostov Oblast and Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, your closest neighbors.

[Dudayev] Nowhere are the Russians more reliably protected than in our republic. There is no violence or hostility toward people of other nationalities in the genetic makeup of our people. This is borne out by our entire history. A rapprochement is even currently under way between Chechens and Russians on the territory of the republic—this is connected with our common fate. Russians are enlisting in the republic guard and in the women's initiative; a women's battalion has been set up.

[Kasyanenko] What kind of relations are developing with the Cossacks?

[Dudayev] A few days ago I was told that a Cossack delegation was trying to get in touch with me. I waited, but no one came. As for our own Cossacks, those who live in the republic, we are together. We have a great deal in common, even in our traditions, clothing, and customs. We have common aims, and there can be no enmity.

[Kasyanenko] How long will martial law remain in force in the republic?

[Dudayev] That does not depend on us. Russia's Supreme Soviet is provoking us to do this by its decisions.

[Kasyanenko] Can you be more specific?

[Dudayev] Look no further than the fact that Russia's delegation intends to hold talks with some kind of public organizations rather than with the legitimate authorities or the president who has been elected by the people. Furthermore, annoyance that the action to introduce a state of emergency in the republic has failed is evident in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet decision. Under the pretext of controling arms imports and exports, what essentially amounts to an economic blockade is under way. On the basis of all this, the Chechen Republic parliament has adopted the decision that talks cannot take place until Russia recognizes the lawfully elected president and the independence of Chechenia.

[Kasyanenko] What political parties and movements are most influential in the republic at present?

[Dudayev] A consolidation of all forces on religious and national-liberation grounds is characteristic today. Once again I cannot fail to mention that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet has essentially forced various parties of a religious persuasion to switch to the well known platform of the "Muslim Brotherhood." Democratic parties have rallied around the national-liberation platform and have fortified their position, although prior to this they had considered the possibility of self-dissolution provided that normal elections of the president could be held. This was not possible.

[Kasyanenko] Tell us, is the possibility of a revival of the Communist Party not being discussed?

[Dudayev] Well what sort of Communists are we? We are quite different both in spirit and ideology. No, this is alien to us.

[Kasyanenko] Let us assume that Russia recognizes your republic's independence. What sort of socioeconomic system would it have?

[Dudayev] The establishment of republican structures is already under way. Two alternative cabinets of ministers have been set up under the president. The first is essentially the former council of ministers which is in charge of the state sector of the economy. The other cabinet represents entrepreneurs and private enterprises. A sort of contest is under way between the two systems. Life will show which one of them should be given preference.

[Kasyanenko] The last question: Is an investigation under way in the republic into the circumstances of the death of KGB staffer Tolstenev?

[Dudayev] Yes. It is already known that he was detained during an attempt to stage a provocation. Legal medical experts have established that he himself cut his throat with a piece of glass. We are inclined to believe that the kidnapping of University Rector Kankalik was also a provocation. Now the KGB can say that the investigation being conducted in the republic is not expert and efficient enough, and this will provide it with an opportunity to interfere in our internal affairs, presenting the national movement as terrorism. I wish to issue a warning that should Russian state security staffers penetrate onto the territory of our republic without the sanction of its leadership, they will be arrested.

[Kasyanenko] Thank you for the interview.

Storm Troopers Attempt To Seize Weapons

OW1611161891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All night from November 15 to 16 some 80 or 100 Chechen storm troopers made three attempts to capture weapons and ammunition from a special motorized infantry battalion of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Interior Forces deployed in Grozny.

As INTERFAX has been told at the USSR Interior Ministry's press service, the battalion has stored the arms in a premise guarded by two squads. Warning has been given that another attempt to grab them will be answered by opening fire. The Chechen commandoes replied with threats to massacre the officers' families if the weapons were taken out of the premise or damaged in any way.

According to the press-service, the Interior Forces have coped with the situation without opening fire. Still, four submachine- guns were carried off during the last attack.

The battalion comander explains that he can't move it to the safer grounds of the Interior Troops prison guards regiment since his unit is completely blockaded by the Chechens.

Interior Ministry Troops Disarmed in Groznyy

LD1611185891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Here is a report from Groznyy. It has just been learned that unknown persons from the Chernorechye settlement in Groznyy entered an installation where a battalion of Interior Ministry troops are stationed and in effect disarmed the soldiers. Those in the circle of Dzhakhar Dudayev, the president of the Chechen Republic, consider that this was an organized provocation. The republic's parliament is urgently considering the problem, and Interior Ministry bodies have been given appropriate instructions.

Emissaries in St Petersburg 'Rebuffed'

OW1611181091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the Chechen National Congress held consultations with St. Petersburg authorities on Friday and Saturday [15 and 16 November] . It has become known to an INTERFAX correspondent from reliable sources in the Mayor's office that the Chechen Republic sought a chance to open its representation in the "northern capital", but was rebuffed by the Petersburg leadership.

Nonetheless, the two sides agreed in assessing the actions by Russia's government towards the Chechens as erroneous.

At a press briefing Saturday the delegation's leader—member of the Chechen Congress executive—Bek Mejidov spoke of coming armed resistance against "Russian imperialists" on the part of his republic's paramilitary squads. He said they could count on 10,000 fighters from the neighbouring Daghestan, armed units from Georgia, and the Chechen diaspora in Syria, Turkey, and Jordan.

Situation Reportedly Returning to 'Normal'

LD1611192491 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy November 16 TASS—The situation in the Chechen Republic is returning to normal, and all enterprises have restarted work, Chairman of the Economic Management Committee of the Chechen Republic Yaraghi Mamodayev, told TASS.

Mamodayev, an energetic man of 38, was appointed to the post by decree signed by President Dzhakhar Dudayev.

Mamodayev said his committee's top priority tasks [word indistinct] ensure food supplies during harsh winter and possible economic blockade by Russia.

In closing his interview with TASS, Mamodayev said: "We by no means intend to sit behind a fence from anybody, either politically or—still less—economically. Let those who wish to cut off the Chechen Republic from Russia, know that they are running a risk of cutting off the entire Caucasian region that is tied up to the rest through us. We are open to all—domestic and foreign enterprises, firms, concerns and individual entrepreneurs. We are prepared for any mutually beneficial cooperation."

Republic Prepares for Economic Blockade

LD1711014191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2110 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Report by M. Osokin from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] In accordance with a decision by the Chechen Defense Council the dispatch of any kind of food, machine tools, motor transport, or military hardware beyond the republic's borders is forbidden. President Dudayev and other leaders of the Chechen congress say that they fear a possible economic blockade from Russia. Stores are being set up in the republic and, in addition to their own resources, the local authorities have already received a large consignment of food from Chechens from Stavropol Kray and from Turkey through Georgia. Incidentally, not only food has come from Georgia.

According to a REUTER report, the Georgian authorities have handed over a large consignments of weapons to President Dudayev. The formation of military units is under way in the Chechen Republic. According to Dudayev, martial law will remain in effect until the

Russian leadership recognizes the Chechens' statehood. Dudayev states that as of this moment talks with the Russian authorities are not possible.

RSFSR Deputy Comments on Settling 'Crisis'

LD1711104691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2130 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 16 Nov (TASS)—"Throughout this period, an intensive search for contacts and for common ground has been unceasing. I can now say that provisional agreement has been reached regarding a meeting of authorized delegations without any conditions from either side. It is to take place at a location yet to be agreed upon," Sergey Filatov, the first deputy chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, told TASS, commenting on the implementation of the Russian parliament's decree adopted in connection with the presidential decree on the introduction of a state of emergency in Checheno-Ingushetia.

"As is well known, a representative delegation to be headed by Yu. Yarov, a deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is being formed," he said. "Yesterday Ruslan Khasbulatov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, appealed to the peoples of Checheno-Ingushetia to sit down around the table for talks putting behind them the insults of the past in order to find common ground which will enable them to resolve the republic's fundamental issues."

"The Supreme Soviet did not support the introduction of a state of emergency in Checheno-Ingushetia, but in the week since this resolution, reports from Groznyy have not been any calmer. For example, it has been learned today that a battalion of Internal Troops has been disarmed and the number of fleeing refugees has increased. Has the search for solutions to crisis been dragged out excessively in this disturbing situation?

"A feeling that the search for a political settlement of the situation in the Chechen-Ingush Republic has been dragged out could obviously only stem from a lack of information about the activities of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet," explained Sergey Filatov. "This is understandable: it is a very delicate problem, and a word out of place on the matter would do no good. To a certain extent the delay in the talks process was caused by the preliminary conditions put forward by the other side which now seem to have been lifted."

Parliament Halts Work; Situation 'Calm'

LD1711125991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1125 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 17 Nov (TASS)—The parliament of the Chechen Republic, which has been in session continuously since 2 November, is not working today for the first time. That circumstance itself characterizes the relative calm which finally has been established in the center of that kray which has risen up in revolt. It is true that not all the parliamentarians stayed at home today. Work is under way in committees and commissions.

The committee for the operational management of the national economy of the republic, which was set up recently by a decree of Dzhakhar Dudayev, is working almost in its full composition. Sugar, which has arrived in Groznyy, is being distributed to rayons and mountain populated areas. Yaragi Mamodayev, chairman of that committee, told TASS that the inhabitants will have no problem, at least as far as sugar is concerned. The republic is receiving an additional 25,000 tonnes of this product under a barter deal, and it will be distributed as incidentally other products and goods throughout the entire territory, including Ingush populated areas. Today the leadership of the Groznyy garrison allocated motor vehicles to transport sugar to remote populated areas.

It became known today that the men of the battalion of Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was seized yesterday, have been taken out of the Chechen Republic. Its property and weapons have been taken under the protection of the national guard. There are no problems with the other military units deployed in the Republic.

A rally of thousands of people continues in Nazran, where the Ingush, who at the request of the leaders of their movement and clergy have given up marching on North Ossetia, have stated firmly that they will not disperse until the Russian leadership accelerates the decision to return to them lands that were theirs since time immemorial.

Premier Resigns, Cites Council Dissolution

OW1811122391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Bekov, premier of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, tendered his resignation Monday [18 November]. He explained his move by his "inability to continue holding the post at a time when the Chechen-Ingush Council of Ministers has been officially dissolved."

President Dzhakhar Dudayev has taken on also as prime minister in the Chechen Republic's Cabinet.

International Affairs

Rutskoy Orders Halt of Arms to Afghanistan

OW1511233391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has told the appropriate organizations to immediately halt all further weapons deliveries to Afghanistan, especially weapons of mass destruction. At a short press conference after his meeting with the Mujahidin delegation, he stated that the Afghan side had promised to end the attack on Kabul.

Rutskoy emphasized that neither the Soviet nor the Russian side intended to interfere with Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Soviet and Russian sides do not have any particular differences about the Afghan situation.

The leader of the Mujahidin delegation, Burhanuddin Rabbani, noted that the Russians approached the problem more decisively, while the Soviets expressed some doubts.

Under the agreement which was reached, Rutskoy stated, on their return home, the Mujahidin delegation is supposed to meet with other representatives of the opposition who did not take part in the talks in Moscow in order to create a joint official commission to conduct further talks.

With regard to the renewal of the frustrated war in Afghanistan, Rutskoy emphasized that from the Soviet side, only those republics "having particular interest" (those on the border with Afghanistan) could choose to take part in future wars.

Economic Accord With CSFR Signed in Moscow

LD1511185791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] A document on the main principles governing economic relations between Czechoslovakia and Russia in the coming year was signed in Moscow today. It is the first economic agreement that the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic has concluded with foreign countries for 1992.

Compared with last year and last year's documents, trade turnover will increase by between 10 and 15 percent and it is not without some satisfaction that I can inform you that it will first and foremost involve medical supplies, foodstuffs, and consumer goods. The settlements will be in freely convertible currency.

Government Decides To Expel GDR's Honecker

LD1611134191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The Russian Government has decided to expel Erich Honecker, leader of the former GDR, from the territory of the Russian Federation. This information was given in an INTERFAX interview by Nikolay Fedorov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] minister of justice.

He noted that for over six months the FRG Government has been trying without success to resolve the problem of Honecker and in this connection has been operating through Union structures, including through the USSR president, but did not receive any response right until the final moment.

On 5 November the FRG ambassador applied to the RSFSR Justice Ministry, and on 15 November this matter was officially submitted by the RSFSR justice minister at the first meeting of the new Russian Government, which was held under the chairmanship of President Boris Yeltsin.

It was confirmed that the action of Union bodies in bringing Honecker to the USSR from FRG territory was a gross violation of international law and openly disregards both Union and Russian legislation on the presence of foreigners on the territory of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. Moreover, Honecker's presence in the country under Article 83 of the RSFSR Criminal Code ranks as unlawful entry into the territory of the Russian Federation. The action of the officials who facilitated Honecker's unlawful entry into the Soviet Union could be regarded as an official crime.

At the suggestion of the justice minister the government has decided to expel Erich Honecker from the Russian Federation, although, it is true, the date for implementation of this decision is not yet known.

Asked by the INTERFAX correspondent whether this decision by the government in respect of a former ally of the USSR is not treachery, the justice minister said that it was dictated by the laws of the RSFSR and the USSR. Any consideration connected with political expediency would have been a tribute to the previous system. The supreme political expediency is for it never to replace the law, Nikolay Fedorov stressed.

Yeltsin Views German-Russian Relations

AU1711150891 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1105 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Interview with President Boris Yeltsin by Eduard Neumeier in Moscow on 13 November—recorded; Yeltsin speaks in Russian, with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Neumeier] Mr. President, your first trip abroad following your swearing-in in July will be a visit to Germany. Is this a coincidence, or was it planned?

[Yeltsin] It certainly is no coincidence. It is a program, a program that has been scheduled until about the middle of next year. I think my upcoming trip abroad was given an impetus on 19 August, during the coup, an impetus by Mr. Kohl. At the time, he was somewhere in the mountains, and he called me from his resort and expressed his support for me on his own behalf and on behalf of the German people. He also invited me to visit Germany this year, and I am going as soon as possible to establish direct contacts between Germany and Russia.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, what feelings and relations do you have personally regarding Germany?

[Yeltsin] I am highly satisfied that Germany is reunited, that its unity has been restored. That is a process that certainly will have consequences, both in Germany and in Europe, for the current integration processes throughout the world. Of course, I do not have any negative feelings in connection with the war because Germany cannot be associated with the war; fascism was responsible for the war. I highly respect the Germans' business efficiency, their accuracy in work, and whenever I was with them in factories and whenever agreements were concluded with them, they always observed such agreements in every detail.

We also have an interest in the withdrawal of our troops from Germany. This problem must be discussed, too. There are certain feelings in this respect.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, I have lived in Moscow for seven years now. What strikes me—and this not only now and not only after Germany's unification—is the fact that most Russians have positive and even friendly feelings for Germany and the Germans. How do you explain this after all that has happened?

[Yeltsin] I partly touched on this question in my previous answer. First, time passes and generations change, and the horrible things that happened during the war have fallen into oblivion. Second, the present generation in Germany cannot be blamed and is not responsible for the war. Third, the Russians are absolutely not resentful. Fourth, our contacts have developed well in recent years, and we have cooperated to the benefit of both sides. Among other things, we did not prevent the unification of Germany. It is always like this: When somebody has good and friendly feelings and is doing good deeds, a growing sense of morality develops. I think it is logical that human relations become increasingly friendly, even though the situation in our country is difficult.

[Neumeier] It seems to me that the Germans who live in Russia and in other republics of the former Soviet Union are not included in these good feelings. What is the reason for that?

[Yeltsin] I do not agree with you that the Soviet Germans are not included in these good feelings. These good feelings are also for them. It must be said that we live in harmony with them. We understand their problem—establishing autonomy for the Germans on the Volga—their demands are warranted. A lot has happened during these 45 years. People have settled in the territory, in the regions of Saratov and Volgograd. That is why we have problems here. The problem is not a bad relationship with the Germans. Therefore we are trying to find alternatives; I am confident that we will find such alternatives, and we will discuss them during our visit to Germany.

[Neumeier] Unless something happens before you visit Germany, the question inevitably will be asked of you as the Russian President: Why is Erich Honecker still in Moscow? Why has Honecker—who in the German view and in the view of Russian Justice Minister Fedorov was abducted illegally—not been repatriated to Germany?

[Yeltsin] Viewed from the Russian standpoint and under international law, it was illegal. I agree. If it were up to me I would bring Honecker back, but Gorbachev will not release him. That is why Germany, the Germans, and Mr. Kohl will have to turn to Gorbachev, who they prize so much. Of course, I am dealing with the problem. Viewed from the legal angle, it was an illegal act, as I said. I have made sure of this. I asked Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin to get in touch with Mr. Honecker to persuade him to return voluntarily. He refused because he does not have any guarantees from the German side that he will not be prosecuted because he is old—he is 80—so Honecker refused, for the time being. I then addressed Gorbachev, but he believes he has a sort of moral obligation toward Honecker. Therefore, he believes that this problem will be difficult to solve if Honecker will not agree voluntarily. I am continuing to work in this direction.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, there have been reports in connection with your trip, saying that you also would have several hundred paintings, sketches, and other art objects in your luggage that were robbed when the Red Army conquered Germany. The Ministry of Culture reportedly objected. Is that true, and if so, should art objects that were stolen be given back to the legitimate owner?

[Yeltsin] I do not have to make propaganda during my official visits, not even if such propaganda concerned highly moral, valuable deeds. It is not my way to bring valuable art objects, paintings, or collections. That is why I will bring nothing. I did not and do not intend to do so, but the fact that I will take up this subject can be attributed to the fact that there is official information that much more was taken from Russia to Germany than from Germany to Russia. Therefore the problem exists, and I think that an agreement could be signed within the framework of my official visit, an agreement on setting up a commission to study every collection and each case carefully, with the aim of returning the art objects to each other on the basis of equality.

[Neumeier] What are your specific hopes of the German Federal Government?

[Yeltsin] I see what you are driving at. You want to know how much aid I will request. I have never asked for anything, and I will never do so. Let others ask. This is my first trip as president, a visit at the direct invitation of Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl aimed at creating a basis for our direct contacts, for direct cooperation in various areas—the economy, science, culture, and so forth—direct cooperation between Germany and Russia. That is the most important thing. We will sign some documents in this respect.

In addition, the areas of cooperation between our companies and firms possibly will be defined, such as the processing and storage of agricultural products, agriculture itself, road construction, joint ventures in the transportation sector, and a large number of other projects that we could implement together. Moreover, we must take into account that we are in a crisis, and that in Germany, too, there is stagnation, stagnation in foreign trade. Germany needs the Russian market very much. It is a market of 17 million square kilometers and 150 million people.

This country has virtually all raw materials under its surface. Therefore, it is very important for German business and industry and for the German Government to open up such a market. We will bring our businessmen and managers who have good experiences to establish contacts with your businessmen and to start this mutually advantageous process. I do not deny that we will have provisional difficulties in Russia when resolute and radical reforms are carried out. Possibly, a humanitarian initiative will be taken. By that I mean humanitarian aid. This is not a request, but I am talking about an initiative by Germany itself.

There is yet another problem we will have to settle: the withdrawal of our troops, and the economic, ecological, organizational, and other problems involved. Since Belorussia and the Ukraine have decided not to allow these troops to be accommodated in their countries and they all have to be accommodated in Russia, we will not be able to withdraw all these troops at once. So these problems also must be solved.

[Neumeier] Germany, which financially is the main creditor of the former Soviet Union, is concerned about the solvency of the successor states. Does Russia see that it has an obligation in this regard?

[Yeltsin] Regarding Russia's share in the overall debt of the Union, there is absolutely no doubt that we will repay our debt, but there is another problem. Some republics—two or three—refuse to confirm that they will repay their share of the Union's debt. What can be done? To maintain its claim to a certain succession and the authority of the state as a big power, Russia is ready to take over these two or three republics' share of the debt.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, what is your idea of the future debt service?

[Yeltsin] I think that on the basis of our present crisis situation, during our negotiations, we possibly will broach the possibility of rescheduling repayment or changing the credit terms, from short-term to long-term credits, for instance, but it all must be in accordance with the international standards existing between banks.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, Russia's role in Europe will depend on the success of your economic and political reforms. Where do you see Russia's place in Europe? Do you see it as a possible future member of the European institutions developing from the European Community, or do you see it outside these institutions?

[Yeltsin] I think Russia certainly will overcome the present critical phase and will rise again. The situation will be stabilized. Then there will be growth and stabilization in the economy, and the people's living standard will improve. Russia will join the existing European institutions. We will not form any other such institutions.

[Neumeier] Mr. President, you know that Poland, Hungary, and the CSFR want to become members of the European Community, but these three countries would also like to become NATO members. Could you accept that?

[Yeltsin] The Union, or what is left of it, has not agreed. Therefore, no agreements have been concluded between the Eastern European countries and the Union center, which is wrong, I think, and a big mistake. That is why Russia took the initiative and concluded direct agreements with these countries. No conditions were set. They have the right to decide what institutions they want to join, whether they want to join NATO, the EC, or any other institution. We have concluded agreements with the CSFR and Bulgaria. I plan to visit Romania and Hungary in December. We think we will conclude treaties and agreements with all these countries before the end of this year or in January. They are entitled to decide, and it is up to the NATO leadership whether or not they want to join this organization, but I do not believe that they will be accepted as members.

[Neumeier] Following the beginning of democratization several years ago, after the party conference, the Soviet Union threatened to disintegrate. Some years later, the Soviet Union has ceased to exist. Now there are similar aspirations in Russia to secede from the central power: [Word indistinct], the Chechens and Ingushes. Do you consider it possible that Russia also will disintegrate into several states?

[Yeltsin] No, there are 130 nations and ethnic groups in Russia. There have been ethnic conflicts in the Union for four years. Blood has been shed. Nonetheless, not a single drop of blood has been shed in Russia, thank God. That is very important. We will try to find political ways to conclude agreements with those who intend to demand sovereignty within the Russian Federation. We will try to preserve Russia's unity, but even if one or two of the many republics—there are as many as 20 republics, and other regions and territories in addition—were to secede from a larger territory, it should not be a tragedy. We must act in a politically wise way.

[Neumeier] As Russian president, you were given some powers recently that are hardly consistent with aspirations for democracy: The suspension of free elections for a certain period of time, the fact that parliamentary decisions require your approval, and the qualified possibility to issue decrees that are not in line with the valid Constitution. Does that harm democratic development?

[Yeltsin] No, it does not because it does not contradict our young democracy in any respect, it does not contradict our democratic principles and aspirations. I do not think I have made excessive demands. The point is that very radical reforms must be carried out within a very short period of time, and this requires a very strong executive power. Granted, it must be balanced by legislative organs and the judiciary, but in our country the relationship among the parliament, the president, and the judiciary is just developing, so there may be clashes.

There is a certain counterweight to every presidential resolution in every respect. Where does the president have absolute power if his resolution is not ratified? Regarding the suspension of elections at all levels of executive power and their postponement for a year, the representatives of the executive power were never elected; they were always appointed. They were only elected during the reform period so that we would not have a political struggle at the grass roots, but that is where the officials will forget the reforms; they just forget the people and will fight each other.

Therefore, I asked for the suspension of these elections. They have not been not abolished, they have just been suspended for a year. Is that a good proposal? The proposal was accepted, and if you are trying to interpret this as the Russian president's absolute power, what are you driving at? I think that is what your question implies. I think that currently the power is balanced in a certain way. There is no exaggeration in this respect. If the Supreme Soviet adopts a law with which I do not agree, I can veto it provisionally, in line with the Constitution, but it is a provisional veto. After about two weeks, a decision must be made.

[Neumeier] One last question: You were an outstanding representative of the communist regime. You left the party. You speak about democratization and democracy. Are you still a communist, a democratic communist—I do not know whether that exists—or a socialist, or do you see yourself as a democrat? What type of political democratic system is your goal for Russia?

[Yeltsin] I do not see myself as a communist. I think I am a democrat on the basis of the learning process I have undergone in recent years and on the basis of my political activities. Regarding your question as to what sort of country and what sort of social system should be set up in Russia, this problem must be dealt with very cautiously because we do not wish for any other country, any other people, any other individual an experiment such as the one we have carried in our country over a period of 74 years. We will take over the best of what there is in the progressive countries—in Germany, France, the United States, Great Britain, and Japan—regarding both technology and the people's living conditions and culture. We will take over the best of what there is for ourselves. That means that we must embark on the civilized road of a democratic state ruled by law, a state that respects every international legal norm.

Indian Foreign Minister Meets With Yeltsin

LD1511161291 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today met Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki, currently on a working visit in the USSR.

Welcoming the Indian guest, Yeltsin stressed this is the "first visit in the history of the Russian-Indian relations", and stated that the changed situation in the Soviet Union made the current meeting "historically necessary".

Invites Yeltsin To Visit India

LD1611063991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has accepted an invitation from the Indian prime minister to pay an official visit to that country. The invitation was conveyed to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president on 15 November by the Indian foreign minister during the latter's meeting with Yeltsin in the Kremlin. RSFSR Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who attended the talks, told RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY that both sides confirmed their mutual wish to strengthen friendly relations between Russia and India.

Kozyrev Comments on Relations With India

LD1711000491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Interview with Andrey Kozyrev, foreign affairs minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, by V. Skvortsov; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Skvortsov] Indian Foreign Minister Solanki is currently in Moscow on an official visit. After yesterday's meeting with the Russian president, talks were held at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. The process of establishing direct diplomatic relations between India and Russia continues and is closely connected with economic reforms in the country.

[Kozyrev] Further relations, as it seems to me, will be built in accordance with a completely new scheme, which was most recently tried in Italy. Two days ago I was in Rome on a working visit which took the form of meetings with the president and prime minister of Italy and talks with the foreign minister on the whole range of questions—NATO and economic cooperation—and in future we will build relations in the following way; that is, priority countries and major programs and concentration of all efforts on help for internal reforms.

[Skvortsov] At the moment Russia does not have diplomatic representatives abroad, but a special representative of the Russian president with the rank of minister [sovetnik-poslannik] will be sent to the United States in the near future.

[Kozyrev] Soviet embassies at present have an opportunity to become embassies of Russia and other republics.

If this opportunity is not used then we will resolve the question in a different way. I do not think we need to create parallel structures.

Sakhalin Governor Comments on Japan Treaty

LD1511021491 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2300 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, sent a telegram to Yeltsin stating that the Group on Territorial Problems in the Soviet delegation to the talks on concluding a peace treaty with Japan should be led by the head of the administration of Sakhalin Oblast. The question of Soviet-Japanese borders directly affects the vital interests of the population of Sakhalin oblast, the telegram states.

Certain statements made by senior personnel of the USSR Foreign Ministry and by Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and USSR people's deputies include points negatively perceived by the inhabitants of the oblast, who are worried about the fate of the south Kuril Islands, which are an integral part of Russia. Such an appointment would meet understanding in our oblast and beyond its borders. It would do away with the distrust many inhabitants of Russia feel over the RSFSR's position regarding the south Kuril Islands. This step would not be anything extraordinary. I would like to remind you that St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak led the Soviet delegation at the USSR-Estonia talks.

Yeltsin Letter Gives View of Kuril Issue

PM1811111591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents and TASS reports: "B. Yeltsin's Letter to Russians"]

[Text] RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President B. Yeltsin has sent a letter to Russia's inhabitants explaining the position of the RSFSR leadership regarding the fate of the South Kuril islands.

The present generation of Russians, the letter conveyed via RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCYY channels says, does not bear responsibility for the political adventurism of our country's former leaders. At the same time it is an undoubted obligation of the new Russian leadership to seek ways of resolving the problems inherited from the policy of previous eras which to this day are impeding the establishment of Russia's normal relations with the world community.

One of the problems on whose solution we must embark in the very near future is the attainment of a definitive postwar settlement of relations with Japan. I am sure that from the viewpoint of the Russians' interests it would be unforgivable to continue to tolerate the situation whereby relations with Japan remain virtually frozen because there is no peace treaty between our countries. It is well known that the main obstacle on the path toward this treaty is the question of the border demarcation between Russia and Japan.

In our approach toward it we shall be guided by the principles of justice and humanism and will firmly defend the interests and dignity of the Russians and primarily the inhabitants of the South Kuril islands. I can assure you that not one destiny of the inhabitants of the South Kuril islands will be broken.

The initial principle of any accords with Japan, B. Yeltsin writes, will be concern for the welfare of our single and indivisible Great Fatherland. As the first democratically elected Russian president in history I assure you that the Russian public will be promptly and fully informed of its government's intentions and plans.

Hokkaido Governor Meets Russian Official

OW1711061091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 17 KYODO—Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi on Saturday [16 November] met with the Russian Federation's deputy foreign minister and talked with him about the territorial dispute involving four Soviet-held islands as well as the possibility of future economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the northernmost Japanese main island.

Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze told Yokomichi that last week's statement from Russian President Boris Yeltsin was issued in reply to telegrams from Russians opposing the return of the four islands, Yokomichi said in a news conference following his meeting with Kunadze.

Kunadze said telegrams opposing the turnover of the islands have been arriving in Yeltsin's office almost every day since parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov visited Japan in September, Yokomichi said.

When Yokomichi asked if public opinion in Sakhalin—the island province just north of Hokkaido—will affect the president's decision, Kunadze said it is important to listen to the voice of the people in connection with the territorial issue.

"Of course, many people seem to suspect that Moscow will make a secret deal, but the age of secret deals is already over," Kunadze said according to Yokomichi.

Kunadze refrained, however, from further explanation of Russia's policy on the territorial dispute, Yokomichi said.

President Yeltsin's statement on Thursday called for an early settlement to the long-standing island dispute and he emphasized that starting points for reaching a resolution must be based on legality, fairness, and observation of international rules.

The Soviet Union has maintained control of the four disputed islands since the closing days of World War II.

Belorussia

Parliament Agrees Armed Forces 'Required'

OW1511203391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [15 November] the Belorussian parliament discussed whether the republic should have armed forces of its own.

The parliament agreed that the republic required to have armed forces to safeguard its sovereignty. It was suggested that the republic should have a national guard, but the motion was overruled.

Vladimir Zablotsky, a deputy from the opposition's Popular Front of Belarus [Belorussia], emphasized that military construction must be tied to the republic's economic potential.

According to Mr. Zablotsky, Belarus, now a sovereign republic, cannot afford high military or defense expenditures.

Republic Establishes Ministry of Defense

LD1611180191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1702 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 16 Nov (TASS)—The parliament of the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia] has decided to set up a Ministry of Defense Affairs. According to deputies, the ministry should, in principle, be headed by a civilian. However, it is desirable for the transitional period that approximately one third of the staff of the new department and the minister himself should be from the military. A statute on the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus has also been approved. It will be led by the chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet. It was decided to refrain from creating home national guards for the time being.

Deputies Agree To End Economic Impasse

LD1711062191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By correspondent Petr Makritskiy on close of Belorussian Supreme Soviet session in Minsk]

[Text] There seems to be a logic of its own in the fact that concluding its work the Supreme Soviet has returned to what it discussed at the beginning. Deputies have finally dotted all the i's on the issue of the republic's economic situation. Yet again there have been debates and diverse opinions, but all have agreed that the economy is in crisis and that measures aimed at taking the country out of the impasse can be delayed no further.

Coupons with consumers' photographs are to be introduced in Belorussia as of 1 January to protect the consumer market, which has been prompted by the introduction of free prices in the neighboring sovereign republics. They are to be used along with money to purchase food and consumer goods. Leonid (?Kozik), chairman of the Supreme Soviet commission, has explained to us the essence of a resolution which was adopted by the parliament.

[Begin Kozik recording] Yes, the Supreme Soviet has indeed adopted the resolution called: On Some Measures Resulting From the Current Economic Situation in the Republic. The essence of it is that issues have been divided into several groups, the first one I would describe as political issues. In particular, Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich has been instructed to raise a number of issues and to discuss them jointly with the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] leadership, and the leadership of those republics that signed the Economic Community Treaty. First and foremost, these are the issues of the exchange of instruments of ratification with regard to the treaty signed with the Russian Federation and the elaboration of our price and emission policy jointly with the republics. Furthermore, a most important issue is that the Supreme Soviet chairman is to put forward a proposal on behalf of our session that the acquisition of armaments be frozen in 1991-92, namely the armaments manufactured at present. We cannot carry the burden of the military budget any longer; it must be cut. Such a proposal is to be submitted, and it is to be discussed. There is a number of problems of economic nature, first and foremost, with regard to the protection of our market, like the introduction of coupons, the provision of the republican cattle-breeding industry with grain, an issue of free prices and other issues relating to the daily life of our Belorussian citizens. [end recording]

Cabinet Concerned About Possible Hunger Riots

LD1711152891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] If food supplies to the inhabitants of Minsk are not improved in the near future, hunger riots may soon start in the city. This concern was expressed by Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Kostikov at a sitting of the Presidium of the Belorussian Council of Ministers.

Even Minsk, which is relatively safe regarding food supplies, daily receives 60 tonnes of milk and 40 tonnes of kefir less. Sales of potatoes and vegetables to the population have been sharply reduced. City authorities urgently elaborate a system of assigning inhabitants to shops by their microrayon. The concern of members of the Presidium of the republican Council of Ministers has been caused by the fact that Belorussia received 550,000 tonnes less grain for producing mixed fodder. If the center does not fulfill its obligations, the inhabitants of Moscow and St. Petersburg will not see Belorussian fat and sausages in their shops. Literally, within one week market prices for meat in the city increased by a quarter. Salesmen themselves explain this by a big difference in prices for meat compared to the neighbors: Lithuania and Russia. If a kilo of pork cost 30-35 rubles [R] in Minsk last week then in Vilnius it was R50, and in Moscow as high as R70. Second-hand dealers buy meat wholesale in the capital of Belorussia and resell it in Vilnius and Moscow. Now prices for main foodstuffs in Belorussia and Lithuania have become even.

Moldova

All Soviet Army Property Nationalized

LD1611205291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] All property belonging to units of the Soviet Army stationed on the territory of Moldova has been declared the property of Moldova by decree of the Moldovan President Snegur. Similar statements have been made by the leaders of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

People's Front Urges Romanian Citizenship

OW1611162791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan People's Front (MPF) has urged the Romanian leadership to grant Romanian citizenship to residents of all Moldovan territories occupied by the Soviet Union in 1940. In an interviev with the newspaper "Independent Moldova", Chairman of the MPF Executive Committee Yuriy Roshka said "The Romanian side received the appeal with maximum goodwill and assured us that it would be discussed at the highest level." Romania has already adopted the main articles of its Constitution concerning citizenship, but the bill on citizenship has not yet been passed. That, in the opinion of the MPF, leaves a chance to amend it.

Popular Front Calls For Election Boycott

LD1711192291 Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev November 17 TASS—Participants in a rally of Moldavia's [Moldova] Popular Front held in Kishinev today accused Moldavian President Mircea Snegur of betraying national ideals.

They called anew for boycotting the presidential elections, which are scheduled to be held on December 8. Snegur is the only candidate to the post of president. Snegur was charged with unwillingness to unite Moldavia with Romania.

Popular Front leader Yuriy Roshka informed those present about the visit of the front's delegation to Bucharest. He said Romanian leaders promised to consider the issue of granting Romanian citizenship to the residents of Moldavia.

Rationing To Be Introduced 1 Jan

OW1611181991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Coupons and consumer cards will be introduced alongside money in Belarus [Belorussia] beginning with January 1, 1992. The decision was taken by the republic's parliament in Minsk on Saturday [16 November]. That is supposed to protect the internal consumer market from excesses caused by releasing prices in the neighbouring republics.

Deputy Leonid Kozik has told INTERFAX that parliament authorized its chairman Stanislav Shushkevich to hold consultations on price policies with the leaders of the other republics which have signed the treaty on economic community. Shushkevich is also to find out if Moscow can undertake printing securities for Belarus.

According to L. Kozik the USSR factories equipped for the purpose had been built jointly by all the republics and should be used by those of them that lack such capacities.

Prime Minister Appeals For Calm in South

LD1611095391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] In connection with the exacerbation of the situation in the south of Moldova, Prime Minister Valeriy Muravskiy yesterday appealed to the people of Moldova on republican television. He noted that there are forces in the republic that would like to bring tension to the limit and create a situation similar to the one in Karabakh or Yugoslavia. The Moldovan prime minister added that these forces have serious support from imperial circles which are trying to turn us back. Valeriy Muravskiy appealed to the people of Moldova to remain calm and be patient and sensible. He stressed that the republic's leadership is categorically against settling issues by force.

Ukraine

Moscow TV Interviews Kravchuk on Russian Ties

15 Nov

LD1511215191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 91

["TV Inform" newscast interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, by unidentified correspondent;

time not given; in the framework of the "Seven Running for the Presidency" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] Wherever I have been—only yesterday I came back from [name indistinct] where I saw metallurgists and miners—all of them ask me what policy the Ukraine will be conducting in relation to Russia. After all, it is not only history that unites us. Today, 80 percent of all trade turnover belongs to the Ukraine and Russia and to our economic relations. You see that is tangible. After all, we have a treaty with Russia.

[Correspondent] How is it being fulfilled?

[Kravchuk] That is precisely the issue. We have had a political treaty with Russia for 10 years. We have an economic agreement for 1991, and I am convinced that we will sign an economic agreement for 1992. The fact is that they are not being implemented well. In that respect, I cannot blame either the Russian or the Ukrainian leadership. The general situation here is so complex. With falling production, collectives are often just not in a position to abide by them, whatever they may say.

Furthermore, there are instances of distorted information. Here is an example: The Ukraine is said to have failed to supply sugar. My answer is that the Ukraine is supplying sugar in full, but it does not have the 2 million [denomination not specified] of sugar previously derived from Cuban raw sugar. That piece of information has not been mentioned. What has been mentioned is that sugar is not being supplied. The fact is that the Ukraine does not have enough raw sugar. In other words, there are things which must be formulated exactly and then there will be calm everywhere. Then there will be calm everywhere. We will not allow any arguments to occur between Russia and the Ukraine and we will not allow them to get involved even in the most insignificant confrontation. The Russian and the Ukrainian people are together. Everything we have we own jointly. [passage omitted]

No one will ever manage to drive a wedge between Russia and the Ukraine. This is just an impossible task.

[Correspondent] Is there any danger that the disintegration of the Union republic will lead to the further breakdown of the republics into regions, autonomies? What is your attitude in particular to a federative order in the Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] I do not support the idea of a federation. I am in favor of a united, constitutional, and indivisible Ukraine. Today the political issue is that we must recognize everything that exists, especially borders, territorial divisions, and the status quo. We must not go back in history. If we start looking back in history, unearthing old geographical maps, then we will discover very many sore spots and then all of them will have to be considered. And that must not be done. It will start a confrontation.

[Correspondent] We have just arrived in the Ukraine, familiarized ourselves with the local press, and read the papers. We thought that you get most of the attention. Perhaps we are wrong, perhaps local journalists are doing you a poor favor.

[Kravchuk] You see, the fact is that if you look and read carefully, very carefully, you will see that I am the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and so they write about me as the Supreme Soviet chairman not as a presidential candidate.

17 Nov

LD1711222691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1942 GMT 17 Nov 91

["Topical Interview" with Leonid Makharovich Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Leonid Makarovich, just recently, and especially after the Supreme Soviet adopted a declaration in August—or rather adopted an act of independence, a proclamation of the independence of the Ukraine—there have been in the newspapers, the central press, and even on Central Television, which I represent here in the Ukraine, more and more comments, publications, and rejoinders in which one can feel here in the Ukraine some kind of misunderstanding about our situation here. Even at the daily level you can hear reproaches that having broken away, the Ukraine intends to hurt someone or other, that it is not supplying something or other, does not want to supply sugar even though it receives timber from, say, Russia. There is a rise in some kind of traditional enmity between the Ukrainian topknots and the Russkies, to use the language of times past. What can you say about this?

[Kravchuk] If it were just economic contradictions, then, well, these are the kinds of times we live in; you always have to reach agreement on economic relations. But this has now reached the level of attempts to inflame enmity between Russians and Ukrainians. Just recently there was a program, a general kind of program, "Vid," on television. There was an argument along these lines—that between Russians and Ukrainians, or rather, Ukrainians had since ancient times felt some kind of disrespect toward the Russians, and they cite Shevchenko, quoting his verse: "Be affectionate, you of the dark brows—but not with the Russkies!"

You see, they are saying that Shevchenko did not like the Russians, but the point is that all this is aimed at ignorant people, because for Shevchenko at that time the Russkies were identified with troops, and the Russkies were never the Russians. This is being conveyed: Look, that is what the great bard wrote. Of course this gives rise to great alarm, and, in spite of the fact that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and I—while discussing this issue at a news conference at the White House—said that no one will ever manage to make the Russians and Ukrainians fall out, that this is a friendship that lives among the people and has the deepest historical roots; in spite of the fact that I appealed to the country's president about this, asked him at least to make an open statement on what his attitude to all this is, his personal attitude as president of the country—if you are going to have such a post, then it has to function; despite all this, still nothing is being done. The mass media is continuing to whip things up.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, I would like to say that the real Russian intellectuals helped Shevchenko to become liberated from serfdom, but the current intellectuals, to my great regret, are trying to attribute to Shevchenko what never existed in his works, and, second, that they are trying to ascribe to the Ukrainian people feelings for the Russians that they have never had. They have never felt anything but respect.

This has gone so far now that even when they raised prices for bread in Moscow, they called this bread: Ukrainskiy. Alongside, cheaper bread is sold. I myself spoke to this man in the line, and he said: So you see, the Ukrainians are selling us expensive bread, and our bread is cheaper. I would like to tell all who live in Russia that the Ukraine has never sold bread to Russia, because we barely have enough bread at home to cover our own needs—all the more this year, when all the country, all the republics, have had a colossal shortfall in grain harvests, so this idea....[Kravchuk changes thought] By the way, this idea is making the rounds here in the Ukraine as well: that the Ukraine feeds bread to everyone. By no means does it do so. I repeat: We have barely enough for ourselves.

[Correspondent] And Cuban sugar, as well.

[Kravchuk] Cuban sugar, too. We supply a quantity of sugar from our own raw materials; we have delivered the same amount as before. But we are failing now to process 2 million tonnes of sugar from Cuban raw sugar. It simply is not there. So people have to know: It is not that it is there, and the Ukraine is not supplying it. They must know that we have an agreement with Russia, and we will fulfill every point, every line. It is a deliberate thing under conditions of deficit, under acute conditions, that feelings are being heated up—such negative ones that they could have grave consequences. I would like to say that the entire responsibility for that will lie with those who are heating this up, because the power of the media is colossal, and they are able to do very ugly things.

[Correspondent] And what can be put up against this?

[Kravchuk] True information. I asked at the State Council: Please, let the Ukraine have perhaps just one hour a week for the Ukrainian leaders or specialists to come to television, sit down together, and try to explain to the people what has happened. We cannot have the Ukraine presented today as if it is living off the fat of the land: conditions are just as difficult for us as in all the republics. But, once again, it is a one-ended game. They speak about us to the whole country, to every nationality, trying to present us as the odd man out, while all the others are all right—but we do not have the opportunity to reply. If I do reply, it is within the Ukraine, but I am not heard by Leningrad, by Moscow, or by Novosibirsk; none of the cities can hear—I have to call it St. Petersburg now—they do not hear it. So, I would like to be heard.

[Correspondent] Let us reckon that this interview [words indistinct].

[Kravchuk] I request that the "Vremya" [as heard] program broadcast this interview, so that people can hear about the true position. I also would ask that the Ukraine's request be met—that we be given time on Central Television.

[Komarova] It seems to us that some of the remarks made by the chairman of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet require comment from our Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. After all, viewers could get the impression that Central Television is indeed trying to play a one-ended game, as Leonid Makarovich put it.

I would like to remind you that as recently as Friday a 40-minute program was on the air, in which Leonid Makarovich himself took part. As recently as November, the Ukrainian leader appeared on our evening news program three times. As far back as 21 October, the management of our company sent a letter to Kravchuk, inviting him to cooperate closely, to take part in discussion programs, and containing proposals granting the leader of sovereign Ukraine constant air time on television and radio. We did not receive any response to these proposals. We will consider this interview as a kind of reply.

But as far as raising the prices for part of a batch of Ukrainian buns, Saratov loaves, or Chergizovskiy rolls is concerned, one must presume that the leaders of Moscow did not link this with their interrelations with the farmers of Russia or the Ukraine—just as shoppers would hardly have linked the French roll with relations between Moscow and Paris, even though during the fight against cosmopolitanism it was actually renamed: city roll.

But, seriously, we once again confirm that Central Television and Radio, trying to reflect different points of view, always is ready to give air time to representatives of the sovereign republics—all the more so if we are talking about top leaders taking part in our programs.

Kravchuk Says Region 'Cannot Be Isolated'

LD1711203391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1758 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent V. Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev, 17 Nov (TASS)—The Ukraine, like any other state, cannot be isolated. The proclamation of its independence in no way means the severance of mutually advantageous ties with the republics of the former Union. Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, declared this at a meeting in Lutsk with personnel of the strategic missile troops. Analyzing the actions of certain political forces, which are trying to drive a wedge between Ukrainians and Russians, the head of the Ukrainian parliament stressed: "There are no grounds whatsoever for hostility between Ukrainians, Russians, and representatives of other nationalities."

However, L. Kravchuk went on to say, despite the efforts being made by Ukrainian and Russian leaders to stabilize the situation in our states; despite our attempts to conduct a policy founded upon friendship and mutual understanding, taking into account our countries' historical development; despite the fact that we have officially declared that the Ukraine accords high priority in its policy toward Russia, just as Russia does with regard to the Ukraine; despite numerous appeals to the country's president, Mikhail Gorbachev, to stop those who are trying to inflame ethnic passions, and who are trying to juggle the facts and falsify history, quoting high-ranking names; some mass media are continuing to whip up the situation. He recalled in this connection a piece broadcast on 15 November on Central Television, in the "Vid" program, which, citing the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko, alleged that Ukrainians foster a deep-rooted enmity toward Russians.

The head of the Ukrainian parliament expressed the firm conviction that no one would succeed in sowing discord between the peoples of the Ukraine and Russia. And certain so-called democrats must reject the improper role they have assumed, and start playing the game—something Central Television is not doing, in accusing the Ukrainians of something of which they are absolutely not guilty of, and never were, he said.

Further on Kravchuk's Remarks on Union Talks

LD1511072791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0650 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman Leonid Kravchuk does not believe that the Novo-Ogarevo process, which is intended to lead to the establishment of a new Union, will succeed. The center has compromised itself, he told KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA today. Therefore, everything should start on a fundamentally new basis. Kravchuk advocates joint solutions to matters of common concern, in areas like military strategy, space, and others. However, he does not believe that a Union, complete with ministries, departments, and a presidential team, i.e. with the old civil service structures, is essential to achieve this. The Ukraine has not sent a delegation to the Novo-Ogarevo talks. On 14 November, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev explained that the Ukrainian leaders could not make major political decisions ahead of the republic's presidential elections scheduled for 1 December. Kravchuk, who used to be second secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party and who is now the republic's leader, is one of seven candidates for the post of president. He is ahead of all his rivals in the popularity ratings.

Novo-Ogarevo Meeting Seen as 'Show'

LD1611230991 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik—TASS]

[Text] Kiev November 16 TASS— Ukrainian leaders responded in various ways to the Novo-Ogarevo meeting which discussed a new draft Union treaty, although a Ukrainian delegation did not take part in it. Newspapers published statements on this subject of Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Leonid Kravchuk. He called in question the very idea of the creation of the Union of Sovereign States. Most Ukrainian legislators share his attitude. For instance, Chairman of the Permanent Commission for Human Rights Aleksandr Yemets described the Novo-Ogarevo meeting as a large-scale political show, in which everyone played the role assigned to him. The roles depend on the physique of the actors, which consists not so much in the economic potential, as in the self-awareness of this or that nation.

According to Yemets, the impression is that leaders of some republics are trying to get rid as soon as possible of power over themselves. But in the existing situation they do and say what they can. What can Kazakhstan say, if only 50 per cent of its population are ethnic Kazakhs? What Central Asian representatives can say, if the economies of those republics have practically been destroyed, and each republic developed in a lopsided way? In addition, Yemets continued, the mentality of those nations is on the level on which they cannot fully understand that they are colonies. People of the Ukraine were in the same situation recently.

Yemets believes that the Ukraine made another step forward towards its sovereignty, since its representatives did not take part in the Novo-Ogarevo meeting. He opposes the Ukraine's signing of the Union treaty.

Official: No 'Claims' on Strategic Forces

LD1711112991 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The head of National Security Service of Ukraine, Yevhen Marchuk, in his interview to foreign newsmen, has confirmed once more that Ukraine was not putting in claims for strategic nuclear forces located on its territory. Yevhen Marchuk has also stressed that Ukraine was going to create its own armed forces in three stages: four, five, six years. To do this it has to conduct negotiations with the Ministry of Defense of the Union to work out and sign corresponding agreements as well as negotiations with the neighboring republics Russia, Belorussia, and Moldova. As the Black Sea Navy is concerned, Ukraine has no claims on the whole Black Sea Navy but being a naval power it must have its own naval defensive forces.

Ministry Protests Danube Attack of Tugboat

LD1711010591 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] According to information from the Danube Soviet steamship line, which is under Ukraine's jurisdiction, this steamship line's tugboat Voroshilovgrad was steaming with barges to Austrian ports on 14 November at 10 o'clock [not specified whether am or pm]. It was attacked by artillery fire near the port of Vukovar, Yugoslavia. As a result of direct hit by a shell into the deck-cabin, the vessel was heavily damaged, the third mate died and the first mate and two sailors were injured. Several hours after receiving injury the first mate died.

In this connection, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed a resolute protest to the Embassy of Yugoslavia in Moscow and demanded that the Yugoslavian side take all necessary measures to render help to those injured, carry out an investigation of the incident, and fulfill obligations on securing freedom and security of navigation in correspondence with the 1948 Belgrade Convention on Danube Navigation Regulations. Croatia was informed of the protest. This issue will be raised by Ukraine at the extraordinary session of the Danube Commission due to convene on 20 November.

Rukh Views Economic Treaty as 'Threat'

LD1611231691 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The People's Movement of Ukraine, Rukh, has issued a statement in connection with the initialling in Moscow of the Economic Community Treaty by the prime minister of the republic, Vitold Fokin. The statement reads in part that the initialled economic agreement does not envisage the mechanics for the solution of economic problems, but is, first and foremost, a political document aimed at preserving the Soviet empire.

The People's Movement of Ukraine warns, reads the statement, that the ratification of the agreement signed by Fokin will become a real THREAT for the revival of the Ukrainian state.

Oblasts Discuss Creation of 'Novorus' State

LD1611221191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] According to a report in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, it has been learned from unofficial sources that a conference was held in Odessa with the participation of the Ukraine's four southern oblasts of Odessa, Kherson, Nikolayev, and Crimea. The participants discussed the creation in the Black Sea basin of a new state called Novorus. The need for its creation was explained by the growth of nationalistic tendencies in the Ukraine and its increasing isolation and reduced links with Russia.

Ministers Prepare State of Emergency Bill

LD1611034691 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] According to (?UX) news agency, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has prepared a bill on approving a legal regime of the emergency state in Ukraine. In conformity with this law, the state of emergency can be introduced both on the entire territory of the republic and in separate regions of Ukraine.

Defense Minister: No Maneuvers Until 1 Dec

LD1611094591 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Provisional commission on questions of Ukrainian referendum put forth a demand that all military maneuvers and inspections in Ukraine be suspended until 1 December. What is the attitude of the Presidium of Ukraine Supreme Soviet toward this issue? Answering this question of our correspondent is Stepan Khmara:

A report on the issue was delivered by the defense minister of Ukraine, Colonel General Morozov. He confirmed that no maneuvers will be held till 1 December. Taking place now is only an inspection. Military units will not leave their garrisons and permanent location sites, said Stepan Khmara.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Currency, Army

LD1611032891 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] A sitting of the presidum of Ukrainian Supreme Soviet took place on 14 November. The sitting began with the discussion of preparations for introducing national currency. Developing the concept of building Ukraine's armed forces, the presidum approved the text of the military oath of allegiance. The decision was taken to submit this issue to examination by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Alterations were entered to civil code of procedure and the Ukrainian code of marriage and family. Other issues of the republic's state life were also examined. The sitting was chaired by Plyushch, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

Official on Military Neutrality, EC Status

LD1611130591 Berlin ADN in German 1151 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Kiev/Saarbruecken (ADN)—According to Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Antonov, the Ukraine is pursuing a strictly neutral alliance policy, but aims economically at full membership of the EC and the World Bank. Antonov said in an interview with Saarland Radio that his republic should "join neither the Joint Supreme Command of the former Union nor NATO". The militarization of the national economy should be restricted or abolished altogether. "Economically we would like to join the World Bank and the European Community as a full member".

The leading politician also said that the Ukraine supports the economic union on the territory of the old USSR, but on its own terms. The economic agreement should in no way be allowed to violate the independence of the Ukraine. The aim is a separate currency, independent tax system, and foreign trade free from all central authorities. The Ukraine needs not charity from abroad but credits, know-how, technologies, and equipment.

New Security Chief Appointed

LD1511145791 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, introduced to the personnel of the republic's National Security Service its new chairman, Marchuk. Speaking about the tasks of the new service, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk stressed that its activity should be based on democracy and legality.

Now that the socio-political and economic situation in the republic is more complicated, he noted, it is necessary to make every effort to prevent its further worsening. The time of guests and experiments has gone and the period for resolute actions has come.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet also expressed gratitude for good service to Holushko, former chairman of the republic KGB.

Speaking at the meeting, Marchuk assured that he will exert every effort to create a truly new National Security Service of the republic which will serve the people in the name of the people.

Durdnyets, the chairman of the Permanent Commission of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet for issues of defense and state security, took part in the ceremony of introduction.

Interrepublic Affairs

Armenian-Azerbaijani Talks End; Plans Adopted

LD1811114191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A regular round of Armenian-Azerbaijani talks ended in the evening of 17 November. The meeting took place on Azeri territory in the Kazakh Rayon center. The participants agreed to set up a joint working group to prepare proposals for ensuring the security of one Azeri and two Armenian populated areas within two days. It should also discuss the possibility of bringing the gaspipe that runs to Armenia back into operation. A cease-fire agreement, the disarming of illegal military formations and their withdrawal from the conflict zone, the normalization of the Yerevan- Stepanakert air route, the work of the airports in Nagorno Karabakh as well as the halting of unsanctioned flights by helicopters without identification markings, and the restoration of communication lines were discussed.

A decision was adopted to exchange hostages as well as to hold a meeting between representatives of the procuracies of the republics involved in this conflict.

Armenia

Foreign Minister Sees War With Azerbaijan

PM1511123191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Report on interview with Raffi Oganesyan, acting Armenian foreign minister, by Mikhail Gusev under "Hotbed" rubric; date and place not given: "Possibilities of Previous Treaty Died With the Putsch. That is What Raffi Oganesyan, Acting Armenian Foreign Minister, Believes"]

[Text] The 32-year-old acting minister held his first news conference in Moscow in Armenian because his Russian is heavily "tainted" with English. A U.S. citizen has become minister of the Armenian foreign department. He is a very well-educated orientalist and an international lawyer and attorney. Inquisitive people from the press of various countries worldwide have learned from him that "an economic revolution has quietly taken place" in Armenia, which has elected a president for the first time in 4,000 years, as a result of which 80 percent of the agricultural lands have passed into private hands and around 15,000 medium and small private firms are already functioning today. In the sphere of human rights Armenia has joined the UN Universal Declaration and is adhering to the convention on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. It does not intend to form an army, but only a national guard.

He is optimistic about Armenia's future recognition on the world arena insofar as the Armenian Republic was already recognized by the big powers between 1918 and 1920. At the same time, the politicogeographic guidelines of Armenian diplomacy are obvious: In the countries where Armenia's interests are, in the opinion of the acting minister, sufficiently well protected, it will be satisfied with the existing diplomatic missions at Union level, whereas in a number of other countries it will form its own independent missions. It is not hard to work out that these will be the United States, France, Canada, and the EC countries.

Will this suit Armenia's partners in the economic treaty, particularly since the independent republic, according to Raffi Oganesyan's assurances, "will never sign any political treaties?" That is the question. The minister's credo is an autonomous foreign policy and, in parallel, participation in the work of an economic community—for which Raffi Oganesyan sees a clear model, the EEC.

Following the oath of allegiance to and the vested economic interest with Russia that have become traditional for all the republics leaving the Union, the conversation turned to Karabakh, and it proved impossible to get away from it, particularly following the official recognition of Azerbaijan by Turkey. A few days ago Bagan Shirkhanyan, chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers Defense Committee, predicted war in this region, warning that this would be a new Yugoslavia and that not a single republic of the former Union would be able to remain aloof. What does the acting foreign minister think of this?

"The Nagorno-Karabakh problem is not a territorial problem but one concerning the right of a nation to self-determination and human rights. A concentration of OMON [special purpose militia detachment] personnel within Nagorno-Karabakh and on its borders was observed last week. For a week now Armenia has not been receiving gas from Russia. In order to become an economic community of sovereign republics, political and economic sanctions are needed against the members of such a union who abuse their geographic and economic capabilities to resolve political tasks. We believe that the time has come to have UN, EC, and International Red Cross representatives present and operating actively in Nagorno-Karabakh."

Raffi Oganesyan does not hide the fact that Karabakh's problems will virtually be the most important ones broached during the Armenian president's talks with Bush and [Canadian Prime Minister] Mulroney, since politicians and businessmen who intend to have dealings with Armenia and Russia are concerned about security and the observance of human rights in that area of conflict.

The Azerbaijani press yesterday published an appeal from the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet that calls the conflict large-scale aggression and designates Armenia the aggressor. It is interesting that both sides are dissatisfied with the nonfulfillment "by the adversary" of the conditions of the Zheleznovodsk communique and stigmatize the Union leadership either for occupying a pro-Azerbaijani stance or a pro-Armenian stance in Karabakh. When, finally and irrevocably, the Union ceases to exist, both sides will blame Russia, skeptics believe. It is hard to believe, but after all is said and done reason has repeatedly failed the subjects of this Caucasian conflict.

Raffi Oganesyan has a definite opinion concerning one of the proposals for settling this conflict that has already gone so far—namely, to form a 10-km security buffer zone on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border with the assistance of Soviet forces.

"This is an artificial attempt by what remains of the center and those who are still clutching at power, together with the Azerbaijani Government, to completely isolate Karabakh in order to resolve its fate. As far as Armenia is concerned, this is unacceptable."

He believes that such a way out of the impasse, approved by Gorbachev, is no more than an attempt to nullify the Zheleznovodsk agreement. He is certain and warns that Yeltsin and Nazarbayev will become increasingly convinced of the presence of political forces that are vitally interested in the failure of their good initiative, which, according to Oganesyan, "must not be forgotten and discarded but, on the contrary, strengthened and continued." But how? This we did not ascertain. It appears quite certain that here too we really cannot do without external assistance.

Turkey was the first to intervene by recognizing the independent state of Azerbaijan.

"This has placed certain international obligations on Turkey," the minister believes.

But does Turkey, whose move has been dictated by the intensified Iranian factor in the region, think so? According to Raffi Oganesyan's Turkish colleague, Giray, his country will attempt to mediate a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. But it is hard to believe that Turkey will be able to look at Karabakh through Armenian eyes. Today this part of the world—where the interests of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Russia have converged and diverged simultaneously—is already highly explosive. Meanwhile Azerbaijan is forming its own army and is nationalizing what was formerly all-Union weaponry. Armenia maintains that "the republic will be ready for this war," and so calamity lies ahead.

Severe Fuel Shortage Reported in Yerevan

PM1511114091 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Nov 91

["TV Inform" newscast report by V. Nazaryan and M. Nersesyan]

[Text] [Announcer] There is fuel left for only three days for the Yerevan inhabitants' gas stoves. It is supplied from underground reservoirs that reach Armenia via Azerbaijan by pipeline. As before this pipeline is closed.

[Nazaryan] For the eighth day now not a single cubic meter of gas has been reaching Armenia. Access to fuel—not their fuel, I should note, but Russian fuel—has been cut off in Azerbaijan and people are suffering here too.

[Unidentified man in street] It is immoral and shameful to act like that in my opinion.

[Unidentified woman in street] We cannot cook dinner, we cannot look after the children, we cannot do anything; everything has to be done by candlelight.

[Nazaryan] Meanwhile the crisis is becoming deeper with every day. Industry has come to a complete standstill. Hospitals, schools, kindergartens are without heating. There is no gas in the apartments. Because of the overloading of the electricity grid in Yerevan, in the past few days 15 transformers at substations have gone out of operation. The city's cable system is on the verge of a serious accident. There is a catastrophic shortage of electricity, and the government is now examining the question of possibly putting the clock forward two hours. One more attempt somehow to alleviate the situation.

[Unidentified man in street] You know, we will endure it. If a man believes in the future he can endure it. The Armenians are a patient people. So we will survive.

[Nazaryan] But the main condition for opening the gas pipeline is considered by the Azerbaijani side to be the creation of a 10-kilometer buffer zone between the two republics under the control of the internal troops. For Armenia that could mean only one more ring of the blockade and, most importantly, complete isolation from Karabakh. A long-term and therefore unacceptable plan.

Azerbaijan

Reportage Highlights Continued NKAO Violence

Mutalibov, Gorbachev To Discuss Crisis

LD1411080391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Excerpt] At the sitting of Azerbaijan parliament on Wednesday [13 November] the continuing conflict with Armenia was discussed. Internal Affairs Minister Magomet Asadov has expressed his indignation with the passiveness of the USSR MVD Internal Troops and the Soviet Army in the conflict zone. He has reported that this question will be discussed today at the meeting of President Ayaz Mutalibov with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

New Clashes, Casualties Reported

LD1611045891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0400 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] A TASS correspondent has reported a new deterioration of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian village of Khramort was shelled from the direction of the Azerbaijani town of Agdam. One person was killed and another 18 wounded. In Gadrut district, Armenian armed formations attacked an Azerbaijani militia post. There are casualties on both sides. Many people are linking the current deterioration of the situation with the kidnapping in Stepanakert of Rzayev, senior assistant to Azerbaijan's prosecutor-general.

Commander Wants OMON, Armed Groups Out

NC1511142991 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Today's news from Gadrutskiy Rayon is somewhat hope- inspiring. The Committee for State Security of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has announced that hostages were exchanged here on (?11) November. The Armenian side has freed two members of the Azerbaijani OMON [special purpose militia detachment] and one civilian. The Azerbaijanis freed three residents from [name indistinct] village in the rayon.

Information has also been obtained about [name indistinct] Grigoryan and his three children who were taken hostage on 8 November. They are alive and have met their kin. The Azerbaijani side wants to exchange them for Azerbaijani hostages.

Martuni has again come under day-long firing from the Azerbaijani village of Amerillar. Fortunately there were no casualties.

Lieutenant General Vasiliy Savin, commander of the internal troops of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry who has been visiting Nagorno-Karabakh for the past week, is visiting the hot spots, accompanied by Russian and Kazakh observers. He has also visited the Armenian-Azerbaijani border [words indistinct] and held talks with the deported residents of the village. The general is deeply convinced that the Azerbaijani OMON and the Armenian fedayeens must be pulled out of Nagorno-Karabakh. Savin has noted that the sides agree to this in principle and that the politicians (?are in a position) to peacefully resolve the ethnic conflict.

[Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian at 1215 GMT on 14 November 1991 reports: "The situation remained tense in Nagorno-Karabakh. Martuni was shelled and fired upon with cannons from the surrounding Azerbaijani villages on the night of 11-12 November. A house and a barber shop were damaged. The shelling was repeated the following night. Fortunately there were no casualties.

["The KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that Karintak and Agbulag villages were fired upon on 12 November. A tractor driver, Evaldin Akobyan, was killed while working in the field. Stepanakert resident Artavazd Ohandzhanyan was shot and injured at a village crossroad.

["A third of Stepanakert's population has remained without water. The airplanes are still not flying from Yerevan to Stepanakert."]

Village Shelled From Azerbaijan

OW1511172391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As reported from Stepanakert, at about 5 A.M. Friday [15 November] the Armenian village of Hramort, Askeran district of Nagorno-Karabakh, was shelled with anti-tank guns from the neighboring Agdam district, Azerbaijan. A direct hit killed a woman and wounded 18 people including women and children. The local school, the administrative building and some private houses were destroyed. The shelling went on for an hour and a half and was stopped through interference by the mobile group of the USSR Interior Forces.

Large-Scale Fighting Reported

OW1611180991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Information is coming from some districts of Nagorno- Karabakh of large-scale fighting involving heavy weaponry, such as armoured personnel-carriers, artillery and missiles.

An offenive was launched by the Armenian forces November 15 to recapture the Armenian village in the Gadrut District. The regional interior department has made it known that in bitter fighting November 15 the Armenians recovered the strategically important village of Sarinshen which had been occupied by the Azerbaijanis since May, also the village Tsamdzor nearby. The Armenian self- defence forces admit, though, that they had failed to regain full control of the latter settlement, only seized the heights in its vicinity. There are casualties on both sides.

Gunfire was also exchanged near Martouni resulting—by unconfirmed reports—in more deaths.

Talks on Crisis Set for 17 Nov

OW1611180791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As INTERFAX has been told at the press center of Armenia's Supreme Soviet, a third round of talks on settling the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh will be finally—after being postponed several times—held Sunday, November 17, in one of Azerbaijan's district centres, Kazakh.

The two previous occasions took place also in Kazakh and Idjevan, Armenia.

This round was to have begun November 15, but was put off due to an early session of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet.

The press centre added that the Armenian side intends to raise the issue of lifting the energy blockade clamped on it by Azerbaijan. Two weeks ago the gas pipeline was blown up in the Kazakh district cutting off the bulk of energy supply for Armenia from the Russian Federation. That practically paralyzed the republic's economy and left the people cold in their homes. Armenia had to resort to stringent economy of energy.

Constitutional Act Referendum Set for 29 Dec

NC1511205491 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The second session of the republic's Supreme Soviet was held yesterday in a charged atmosphere, and the people's deputies stood firm on their positions.

Ziyad Samadzade, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who was chairing the session, [words indistinct] (?said) that for Azerbaijan not to sign the Economic Community Treaty in its present form would deepen the economic (?crisis) in the republic and, therefore, the only way out of the crisis is to sign it.

But Democratic Bloc People's Deputies [first name indistinct] Khasimov, Iskender Hemilov, Isa Zemberov, and Arif Hadzhiyev opposed this view, saying that signing the Economic Community Treaty (?is contrary) to the proclamation of Azerbaijani sovereignty, and that by signing this treaty Azerbaijan again would be placed under the center's yoke.

People's Deputy Sharman Huseynov [words indistinct]. Even after this statement by the people's deputy, the debate continued in an emotional atmosphere and [words indistinct]. The representatives of the industrialists' group insisted that the treaty signing issue be placed officially on the agenda and an open vote cast. The Democratic Bloc (?did not consent to that) [words indistinct].

Finally, the issue of holding a referendum on the Constitutional Act, adopted in connection with the proclamation of the Azerbaijani Republic's independence, was presented for the deputies' examination. It was decided that a popular referendum (?should be held) on 29 December 1991.

People's Deputy Zeynalov, speaking on behalf of the industrialists, proposed that until the referendum on [words indistinct], the republic's president should be given jurisdictions to sign all economic [words indistinct]. In response, the people's deputy [first name indistinct] Kasimov drew the deputies' attention to the fact that, in keeping with Article 112, the Azerbaijani [word indistinct] already extraordinary mandates have been given to the republic's president on every issue, and, therefore, there is no need to give additional jurisdictions to the government. Despite an ensuing debate, the deputies failed to reach a final decision and the discussion of the matter was tabled for today's session.

Republic To Vote on Independence 29 Dec

LD1511183691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1555 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Anar Kadirli]

[Text] Baku, 15 Nov (AZERINFORM-TASS)—The inhabitants of Azerbaijan are to say "yes" or "no" to the constitutional act on the republic's state independence, as adopted by the Azerbaijan parliament, in a referendum on 29 December. This decision was made today at the session of the republic's Supreme Soviet after two days of debate.

The parliament confirmed its firm position regarding the Economic Community Treaty. As is known, the Supreme Soviet has already adopted the decision that Azerbaijan will not sign the treaty in which 10 republics of the former USSR have joined themselves. At the same time, taking into account the republic's complicated economic situation, the cabinet of ministers has been instructed to put forward in the near future, for examination by parliament, its own concept for moving Azerbaijan's economy out of the critical situation.

Georgia

Reportage Updates Violence in South Ossetia

Latest Shootings Reported

LD1611005991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Nov 91

[By correspondent I. Tobolova]

[Text] If one were to believe the assertions of officials that there is no shooting in South Ossetia then how can the incidents of the last few days be explained? The transportation of cargo and passengers on the Dzhava-Tskhinvali route has been suspended for the past week because it is simply life-threateningly dangerous. With the beginning of winter, the blockade of South Ossetia is again starting to bite. In the Georgian settlement of Tamarasheni, which is situated outside the state of emergency zone, an armed attack took place on a Kamaz truck transporting cargo to residents of Armenia. Officers from troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs who were accompanying it were shot at from several barrels of automatic weapons simultaneously. Twenty-year-old lieutenant Yuriy (?Veklich) was shot with 32 bullets. A mourning rally attended by thousands took place in Tskhinvali. People demanded that there be punishment for the killing of innocent people and that measures of some kind should be taken to put an end to the violence. After all, the number of victims of this war has already long passed the hundreds. Pandering to this lawlessness may have far-reaching consequences, which the creators of our policies today must understand.

Shelling Resumes in 'Crisis Points'

LD1611195691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0748 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 16 Nov (TASS)—The mass shelling of settlements has resumed in the crisis points of South Ossetia: Tskhinvali and Znauri Rayons. Grenade launchers, artillery guns, and artillery weapons [gradoboynoye sisteny] went into action again. In the oblast center, five residential buildings were damaged and some municipal buildings were destroyed. Five civilian residents were taken to the hospital with gun injuries. From the side of the Georgian village of Nikozi, fire was also directed at the checkpoint of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry troops and on the territory of the helicopter regiments deployed in the vicinity of Tskhinvali.

According to information from the news center of the South Ossetia information committee, guerrillas captured 18 Ossetians in Znauri and Tskhinvali Rayons in the past 24 hours and took them away in an unknown direction. Twenty-five houses were burned down and plundered. The Ossetian side is also holding 20 Georgians. In Tskhinvali a rally of the inhabitants of South Ossetia and refugees from other areas of Georgia, attended by many people, took place again. Those who took part in it demanded that the country's leadership urgently introduce a state of emergency over the entire territory of the autonomous oblast and evacuate children, women, old men, and the injured from the areas of the armed conflict. The inhabitants of South Ossetia continue to insist on the autonomous oblast becoming part of the Russian Federation.

Eight Seriously Wounded

LD1711103191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0831 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 17 Nov (TASS)—The mass bombardment of populated areas on the territory of South Ossetia is becoming severe and unpredictable. According to reports by the press center of the autonomous oblast's information committee, last night there was intensive fire here once again on the northern and southern suburbs of Tskhinvali from heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, artillery guns and artillery weapons [gradoboynoye oruzhiye]. At 0345 new types of artillery guns of great destructive force were used against the civilian population. It has not yet been established exactly what weapons were used by the Georgian side. Thirteen houses were badly damaged in Tskhinvali and major communal service facilities were damaged. According to preliminary reports, eight people were taken to the hospital with serious injuries. There are children among the injured. The Ossetian side returned fire to suppress the firing positions situated in the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Eredvi, and Ergneti.

For the second week now freight has not been transported along the main Dzhava-Tskhinvali highway from Vladikavkaz to the beseiged oblast center: in several places it is blocked by guerrilla units. The reinforced detachments of the USSR interior troops, who do not have orders to interfere in the armed conflict, are not helping either. Meanwhile there is a catastrophic shortage of food, medicines, and fuel in the town. There are fears that the town may be left without electricity, water, and gas in the next few days.

A special USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs commission is continuing to investigate the crimes committed by guerrillas in South Ossetia. In the words of its representative, since the confrontation between the Georgian and Ossetia sides began, over 260 Ossetians have perished, around 500 have been injured, 112 are missing, and Ossetians have been driven out of 98 villages in the autonomous oblast.

The Ossetian side continues to demand that the country's leadership immediately introduce a state of emergency on the entire territory of South Ossetia (at the moment this regime is in force only in Tskhinvali and Dzhava rayon), and that children, women, the elderly and the injured be evacuated urgently from the crisis rayons.

'Massive' Shelling Reported

LD1711234391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2208 GMT 17 Nov 91

["Television News Service" report]

[Text] There have been reports from South Ossetia on the massive shelling of populated areas. Salvos from unspecified types of artillery weapons of great destructive force were fired at Tskhinvali today. Thirteen houses were razed, communications were damaged, and people were gravely wounded. According to official information, USSR internal troops are not interfering in this armed conflict. On the Ossetian side in the past few months, more than 260 people have been killed, 500 wounded, and 112 reported missing, and Ossetians have been driven from 98 villages.

A telegram also has come from Tbilisi: It says that the day before yesterday, units of the USSR Interior Ministry shelled Georgian villages. President Gamsakhurdia today sent a telegram of protest to Gorbachev on this matter.

Further on Shelling by USSR Troops

AU1811093491 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0505 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Here is some information from the Republic of Georgia president's press service.

On 15 November at 2030 (1730 GMT), subunits of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops along with Ossetian extremists using automatic weapons opened fire from APC's from the direction of Tskhinvali and the village of [word indistinct] on the villages of Zemo Nikozi and Kvemo Nikozi. The shooting continued until 0300 on 16 November. There are wounded and houses have been destroyed.

Furthermore, correspondents from certain central and republican newspapers who visited the area of the incident informed the Tskhinvali and Dzhava rayon commandant's office that up to 50 mortar shells and rockets had been fired that night in the direction of the aforementioned villages.

According to local inhabitants, this has been the most intensive firing during the last few months.

This information has come from the Republic of Georgia president's press service.

President Protests to Gorbachev

AU1811093791 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0505 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Here is a protest from the Government of the Republic of Georgia:

On 15 November this year, subunits of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops along with Ossetian extremists fired rockets and automatic weapons for seven hours on the Georgian villages of Zemo Nikozi and Kvemo Nikozi. Houses have been destroyed and there are wounded.

In connection with this fact, on 17 November this year, the president of the Republic of Georgia sent a telegram of protest to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev in which, on behalf of the Georgian Government, a strong protest is made against the unjust actions of subunits of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops. The Georgian president assesses this kind of punitive action as the continuation of aggression directed against sovereign Georgia.

It is emphasized in the telegram that if USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops will continue to use firearms against the peaceful population, the USSR president will have to bear full responsibility for the further worsening of the conflict in Samachablo [South Ossetia].

The Republic of Georgia president's press service.

Leader: Troops Aggravate Conflict

OW1811124291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Zviad Gamsakhurdia of Georgia has accused the USSR Interior Ministry troops stationed in South Ossetia of aggravating the local conflict at a time when "there are marked stabilization trends."

In his personal message to President Gorbachev, Mr. Gamsakhurdia stated that Soviet interior troops, with assistance from Ossetian militants, had carried out during the past few days a series of rocket and mortar attacks on Georgian villages in South Ossetia, which Tbilisi interpreted as "aggression against Georgia."

The Georgian Interior Ministry's press center has meanwhile reported that Soviet interior troops again shelled the village of Nikozi in the Goris District with rockets last Saturday [16 November], causing material damage and casualties. Later in the day another local village, Ereti, was subjected to house-to-house searches by an interior troop unit.

A group of USSR Interior Ministry servicemen based in Tskhinvali have reported, in their turn, that the district center of Znauri came under ALAZAN rocket fire from the Georgian side Saturday evening. A few hours later a patrol post of the Soviet interior force became the target of a fire attack from the Georgian village of Nikozi. The fire was returned and the shooting spots in Nikozi were suppressed. There were no casualties among the servicemen.

President Rules Out Union Treaty, Market

OW1611161491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's President Zviad Gamsakhurdia was speaking on national television last night. He said the Union of Sovereign States being set up now has no future since the member-republics have too many contradictions. He ruled out any compromises with the new Union for the Georgian people have chosen independence.

On his relations with the opposition Gamsakhurdia remarked that "opposition is all right in a rich country. We are now in conditions of collapse and war." In this situation he finds any opposition "is equal to treason and should be fought against by the whole nation." He called on his supporters to organize groups to resist the opposition.

In his hour-long speech the Georgian president made no attempts to conceal his negative attitude towards developing market relations. "No market is possible in this economic collapse", he said. All innovations of market nature "only impoverish the ordinary people and enrich corrupt dealers", in his opinion. He intends to obtain from parliament legislation banning commercial shops and cooperatives which "profit by speculation instead of producing real products." The president thinks in this way he will "not restore socialism, but benefit the people."

Republic Denies Missile-Building Accusation

OW1611161691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian President's press service has officially refuted the accusation by Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy made November 13 that Georgia has begun producing short-range missiles for the Chechen Republic. It was alleged on Central Television the other day that similar missiles were fired on the capital of Northern Ossitia Vladicaucas from the Georgian territory.

Protesting against "such allegations by Russia's high-ranking officials" the Georgian press service denies that the republic has any plant, materials or technologies for producing such weapons.

Anti-Russian Demonstrations Allegedly Planned

LD1511233491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Nov 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter V. Nakhysh] The news center of (Musafa's) party today reported that provocative anti-Russian demonstrations are being planned by the center in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan. On 17 November, according to information from a KGB officer who wished to remain anonymous, disorders are planned in Baku. The city's Russian-speaking population is to be the subject of the provocations. The same thing already happened in Baku 13-14 January 1990 with regard to Armenians, and it is already clear that this was carried out by special detachments of the KGB.

Later on 20 January the KGB—in well-defined cooperation with the Soviet Army and USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs forces—again organized bloody carnage and slaughtered completely innocent people. It is known today that these actions were carried out with the aim of destroying the democratic movement in Azerbaijan. What is the aim of the new expected provocations against the Russian-speaking population in the city?

[Begin recording] [Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Republic of Azerbaijan] A number of forces, let us say third forces, may use the situation, the opposition situation, and carry out some kind of actions of their own.

[Nakhysh] What measures are being taken to counteract these provocations?

[Mutalibov] Well, actions of this kind are repellent. For this reason, even if there are a great many actions of a provocative nature, I believe we will be able to hinder them. [end recording]

[Nakhysh] The attitude toward the Russian-speaking population is quite all right in Baku today, let us say, just as it was 30 years ago. There are, naturally, no grounds for provocations or anti-Russian demonstrations.

Kyrgyzstan

President Askar Akayev Interviewed

OW1511160291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Interview with Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, by INTERFAX reporter Bermet Malikova; from "Nation & Society"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **Krygyzstan A New Economic Policy**

[Malikova] You will soon be inaugurated as president of Kyrgyzstan. What are the first steps you intend to take after that happens?

[Akayev] We have already mapped out the guidelines for our economic policy. The first measures we are planning to take are a radical agrarian reform, privatisation and denationalisation. These are our strategic tasks. Our tactical ones are also very complicated. We are in for a difficult winter when we'll have serious problems providing our people with food and fuel. We have been importing 1.5 million tonnes of grain a year, but today we can't expect any help from the centre. In the past it was the centre that handled all the imports. Now the Soviet Union has fallen apart, whereas the inter-republican structures that have been formed aren't of much use. Some countries are willing to give us credits for buying food, but there are no efficient mechanisms for getting them promptly. The problem is made worse by the shortage of grain in all the neighbouring republics. Russia, Kazakhstan and other republics have had crop failures this year and have therefore refused to sell us any grain, which is why we can only get some abroad.

Another problem is the shortage of fuel, namely oil products. We didn't know where we stood until very recently, because Russia was flatly refusing to keep its supplies at the old level.

[Malikova] What kind of relations do you expect to have with the members of the economic community, in particular with Russia and the Central Asian republics?

[Akayev] We would like to have equal and mutually beneficial relations with all former Union republics. This is very important for us, especially our relations with Russia. They are vital for our economic policy. We attach enormous importance to our recent agreement with Russia, because Russia accounts for 70 per cent of our economic contacts. We are very interested in the economic agreement for 1992 we are going to sign in Moscow on November 13. We hope to preserve the scale of our economic cooperation with Russia, because that is where we are getting all the vital raw materials from, such as oil products, fertilisers, metal and timber.

[Malikova] Do you think there is a good basis now for real political and economic integration within Central Asia?

[Akayev] I think we need a single economic area to incorporate the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan and a common regional market, although I don't mean such a market should be a counterbalance to the market of the Union economic community. Any common market is formed for several historically developed economic areas. We should, of course, restore our economic contacts with our neighbours. This smaller economic area will form part of one which incorporates the entire territory of the Soviet Union, but I am against a political union. We have to be very careful now—we have just attained freedom and independence by ruining an empire which has led us to an economic collapse, and I just don't see why we should create a new empire, albeit a smaller one.

[Malikova] You said Kyrzgyzstan was able to survive on its own, even if it didn't sign a Union economic agreement. What makes you think so?

[Akayev] We are actually managing without any guidance from the centre even now. No inter-republican structures have yet been formed to facilitate the implementation of the economic agreement that has been signed. We have stable links with various republics based on bilateral agreements, and this is what makes me confident we can manage on our own. We have agreements with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine, Turkmenia and Byelarus [Belorussia], which is enough to keep our economy going. But an economic community will, of course, serve to stabilise the economy in this country. The new inter-republican structures will be the principal instrument for our integration into the world economy.

[Malikova] What changes are you planning to make in the economy of Kyrgyzstan?

[Akayev] They'll have to be quite radical. We want to make our economy independent and profitable. We also want to develop our manufacturing industry. Kyrgyzstan has always been a raw material appendage to other parts of the country, and raw materials are very cheap in the world market. Which is why we would have serious problems if we were to go over to world prices. So far we are not producing any goods that could stand competition in the world market. Our main task is to turn our economy into basically a manufacturing one based on new technologies. We can't manage this on our own. Neither can the economic community or any direct agreements be of much use. What we need for developing our economy and changing its structure are big investments. This is actually a task for our foreign policy. The central bodies handling foreign economic contacts have never taken the interests of our republic into account. We'll be developing our own contacts with economically developed states and will be trying to get credits. We need a powerful industry to process our agricultural produce as well—we don't have any at the moment and are as a result losing 70 percent of our agricultural products. We should also develop our light industry, microelectronics and the manufacture of electric goods. We have started joint production projects with South Korea. And we would also like to make cars fit for our mountainous terrain.

[Malikova] What priorities should the republic have in its foreign policy, in your opinion?

[Akayev] I think we shouid above all develop economic and humanitarian relations with such Asian countries as Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. We should train economists, bankers and managers and send them to study abroad as well. When we were in the United States, the administration promised us support in personnel training. We'll give priority to our economic and humanitarian interests, not to ideology or religion. We are also prepared to develop our relations with Muslim countries if this meets our economic and humanitarian interests. We are especially interested in cooperaton with Turkey, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

[Malikova] Kyrgyzstan has become known as the republic which has made the greatest progress in democratic reforms owing to its active resistance to the communist regime. You have greater merits here than Kyrgyzstan's democrats do. How do you explain this?

[Akayev] Our democratic movements and parties are still in the making, so all these things are natural. There are bound to be both successes and setbacks. We are trying to do our best to consolidate the new parties. As for the policy we have chosen, it is true that we are trying to steer towards real democracy. This was actually confirmed by American political scientists, Sovietologists and economists during our visit to United States. The democratic system we are trying to create takes account of our specific national features and our traditions. Now we know we have chosen the right road. The main purpose of our policy is to keep it in line with the policies of all democratic movements and parties, for otherwise it would be difficult for us to carry out the tasks we have set ourselves. We need the democrats' cooperation and hope they will support our policy and the system we are planning to build.

[Malikova] What is the essence of your ethnic policy?

[Akayev] I think what above all is necessary in ethnic policy is honesty and utmost clarity. We should rely on the national awareness and traditions of the Kyrgyz people. Otherwise we won't be able to create a democratic state. We know that from the experience of some other countries which relied on strong national sentiments, and this enabled them to become great powers although they started from scatch. We have set up a fund to support Kyrgyz businessmen. We are also planning to set up an agrarian fund for Kyrgyzes, because owing to their traditional way of life the Kyrgyzes are worse farmers than, for example, the Koreans, Dungans or Uygurs. I believe we should above all try and understand what the Kyrgyzes' national interests are. But we have dozens of other nationalities living in Kyrgyzstan as well. We mustn't allow any infringements of their rights, for this is bound to lead to ethnic conflicts. Hence the other aspect of our policy is to try and understand the interests of all our national minorities. We should keep these two aspects of our policy in steady equilibrium. We should do our best to prevent it from being upset.

Interrepublican Security Agreement Signed

LD1611230291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the interrepublican security service and Kyrgyzstan's KGB was signed in Bishkek today. It was signed by Vadim Bakatin and (Anardek Bakayev).

Bakatin on Talks, Accord

OW1611181491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the inter-republican security service Vadim Bakatin said at Saturday's press-conference in Bishkek, Kirghizia [Krygyzstan], he was satisfied with the resumed process of talks at Novo-Ogaryovo, near Moscow. He was meeting with the leadership of the Kirghiz security committee.

Bakatin told the press the resulting agreement with the Kirghiz KGB was important for the energing new security structure of the Union. Similar agreements to be made with all the other sovereign republics would help define the duties of the inter-republican security service. He repeated his earlier statement that this service is not meant to be above the republics.

He replied to journalists' questions that he did not expect a repeat coup, but did not rule out a possibility that "the people's patience night be stretched too far by the ever-deteriorating situation."

It was announced at the press-conference that a new conception of Kirghiz national security was shortly to be presented to President Askar Akayev. No details were specified, except a possible change of name—from KGB to a committee for national security.